

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

SEPTEMBER  
2 0 0 4



## **MARCH FOR LEGALIZATION**

**(Pass Ag-Jobs S. 1645 Now!)**

(see story on page 22)

**The Community Alliance is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly magazine is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental, & economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.**

**Editor: Mike Rhodes**

**Editorial Board: Carol Bequette, Diane Scott, Janet Slagter, Richard Stone, Pam Whalen**

**Layout/Design & Printing: Hume Printing & Lithograph**

**Circulation and Advertising Director: Vickie Fouts**

**Copy Editor: Barbara Price**

**Proofreader: Carol Bequette**

**To subscribe send \$35 (regular) or \$10 (low income) to:**

**Community Alliance Magazine  
PO Box 5077  
Fresno, CA 93755**

**(559) 978-4502 (voice)**

**(559) 226-3962 (fax)**

**email: AllianceEditor@Comcast.net**

**website: www.fresnoalliance.com/home**

**Photo Credits:**

**Pages 1, 8, 13, 16 and 22 by Mike Rhodes**

**Page 23 by George Elfie Ballis**

## Letter to the Editor

Fresno RaNCor (Radical Anti Neo-Con Organized Resistance) would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you in the Fresno/Clovis progressive community who made donations to our RNC protest campaign. Thanks to your generous support, RaNCor raised over \$800. This money has been used to defray the travel costs of young Fresno activists traveling to New York to put their liberty on the line in saying no to the Bush administration and all of the catastrophic policies and principles it represents.

As I write this, the situation protesters will face in New York remains entirely unclear. Mayor Bloomberg's administration has refused to grant a permit to United for Peace and Justice for the use of Central Park as the destination of Sunday's massive kick-off protest march. It also remains unclear as to whether the New York City police will erect protest pens and force marchers into chutes like cattle, herding them into official protest areas. Those organizing Monday's Poor People's march have been denied a permit as have many other groups seeking to exercise first amendment rights. RaNCor activists and others suspect that, as happened with the G-8 meetings in Georgia, the state will simply declare a state of emergency in advance and seal off much of Manhattan.

What is clear is that a series of actions have been taken in an attempt to intimidate citizens engaging in dissent. Eight thousand police will be permanently stationed

around Madison Square Garden. Police claim that they have made preparations to arrest one thousand people a day with some discussion of a prison barge to be anchored in New York harbor (think of it as the "ship of state"). The recent terror alerts have been designed, at least in part, both to scare away protesters and to prepare the television public for the police state/armed camp atmosphere that will be New York City. More worrying, rumors are circulating that the police and Secret Service have added new high-tech crowd suppression devices to their normal array of pepper spray, tear gas, rubber bullets, Tasers, SWAT teams, armored personnel carriers, assault rifles, and robo-outfits. These include both high-frequency (designed to pierce eardrums at close range) and low-frequency (affecting the involuntary muscles and nervous system) sound-emission systems and stun guns that emit a cloud of charged, microscopic metal particles to electrocute large groups of people. Finally, the Justice Department has now admitted that the FBI and local law enforcement agencies have been questioning and, in some cases, serving subpoenas to RNC activists throughout the country. Activists involved have reported that the manner of FBI questioning is clearly intended to intimidate the activists and chill dissent, letting them know, in effect, that they are under FBI surveillance.

This is what a modern, high-tech police state looks like.

RaNCor activists and hundreds of thousands of others as well as the vast majority of New Yorkers do not accept this. Establishments throughout Manhattan and the larger New York metropolitan area have set up "Republican-free Zones" as safe havens for activists who are fleeing state repression or who simply need a place to chill for a while. Street theatre, ranging from a Billionaires for Bush flash rally to a Romanesque "vomitorium" protesting capitalist excess, will serve as entertainment for the throngs in New York. The Infernal Noise Brigade and other anti-capitalist/anti-globalization marching bands will provide musical accompaniment to marchers. Activists have infiltrated both the convention planning process and delegate hotels, restaurants, and shows and will use information gained from snitch lines to remind the more than two thousand Republican delegates that they are not welcome. Anarchists, anti-authoritarians and other hard-core activists have called for a day of civil disobedience and direct action on Tuesday. The National Lawyers Guild has trained hundreds of legal observers who will be monitoring police state activities, and they have recruited scores of lawyers who have volunteered to represent activists arrested in NYC.

We encourage you to check <[www.RNCwatch.org](http://www.RNCwatch.org)>, <[www.RNCnotwelcome.org](http://www.RNCnotwelcome.org)>, <[www.TimesUp.org](http://www.TimesUp.org)> and other Web sites for more information regarding the protests. RaNCor activists will be among the thousands of independent media journalists filing reports, pictures, and streaming video during the protests. Go to <[www.Indybay.org](http://www.Indybay.org)> to learn more about what is going on on the streets of New York.

All things being equal, RaNCor activists would rather not be out in the heat and humidity of the corporate canyon lands of Manhattan in August. But all things are not equal. We live in the midst of an emerging corporate/police state. Already average citizens are totally dependent on gigantic multinational corporations for nearly every aspect of their daily lives, from their entertainment and news, to the corporate oil they put in their corporate cars, to the energy that cools or heats their homes (which are usually financed by corporate financial institutions), to the clothes they wear and the food they eat. Like Rome in the time of Cicero and Caesar, we are teetering between Republic and Empire. Given the devastating environmental and socioeconomic impact of globalization, the stakes today are considerably higher. That is why I feel privileged to count among my friends young, dedicated activists who put human liberty and the interests of all beings in the web of life ahead not just of corporate profits but of their own comfort and convenience. Again, thanks to each of you who helped make this protest campaign possible. From contributions and state-sanctioned tactics to civil disobedience and direct action, all of our efforts are part of one great struggle for peace, justice, dignity, and direct democracy for all people and for a healthy and balanced environment for the plant and animal nations and for our future generations.

Michael Becker

# San Francisco Mime Troupe Takes on Dirty Double-Crossing in Old Texas in 2004 World Premiere

28 May 2004 (SAN FRANCISCO, CA)—The San Francisco Mime Troupe brings a new musical “Spaghetti Western” to parks and theaters around the state this summer with *Showdown at Crawford Gulch*, an original fable about lies, greed, and dirty double-crossing in a dusty old Texas town where the Good go bad, the Bad ain’t pretty, and the Ugly get uglier. Tumbleweeds fly as peace-loving citizens of 1886 Crawford Gulch, Texas, face perpetual war with the neighboring Comanche, and townfolk fight to protect their liberties as they are whupped into a frenzy of fear over reported Arrows of Mass Destruction.

Written by Michael Gene Sullivan, with music by Jason Sherbundy and lyrics by Bruce Barthol, *Showdown at Crawford Gulch* will be staged in indoor venues across Northern California and free in Bay Area parks from July 3rd through the end of September.

Sullivan says of the Texas-sized story, “*Showdown at Crawford Gulch* takes a look into the not-too-distant past to see how xenophobia, greed, and images of bloodthirsty terror were used to ‘tame’ another desert land—and how those tools are just as powerful today.” *Showdown at Crawford Gulch* is directed by Keiko Shimosato, with costume design by Callie Floor, and scenic design by John Lowe. The musical stars Mime Troupe Company members Velina Brown, Michael Carreiro, Amos Glick, Ed Holmes, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Michael Sullivan, and Victor Toman.

Sullivan sets the stage for the story:

It is 1886, and a rust red sun rises on the sleepy frontier town of Crawford Gulch, Texas, as its peace-loving citizens start a new day. A silent tumbleweed rolls lazily across the prairie. A coyote cries out. And then . . . in the distance . . . the sound of . . . Drums! Comanche drums, announcing . . . danger! Crawford Gulch is in danger! Bloodthirsty savages are on the warpath, and this innocent, isolated island of civilization is threatened with horrible annihilation!

Or is it?

Well that’s what Cyrus T. Bogspavin wants everyone to believe! He’s the robber baron from back east who already owns most of the county, leaving only the Town of Crawford Gulch, and the nearby Comanche tribal lands out of his grasp. . . . Once the Comanche have been pacified out of existence Bogspavin will make a generous offer for their worthless patch of prairie. What in tarnation could it be about this out-of-the-way piece of land that caught the eye of a wealthy man like Bogspavin? What could be on it? Or is it something under it. . . .

Meanwhile, in town, Mayor Canem is the only protection the citizens have from the savage hordes and their constant attacks. Sure, there were some questions back when he was elected, but all that blew over once he and the heroic sheriff alerted the citizens of Crawford Gulch to the Red threat! Yessiree, since then no one has questioned his legitimacy. Why, he’s even introduced a “Home Range Security” program. . . .

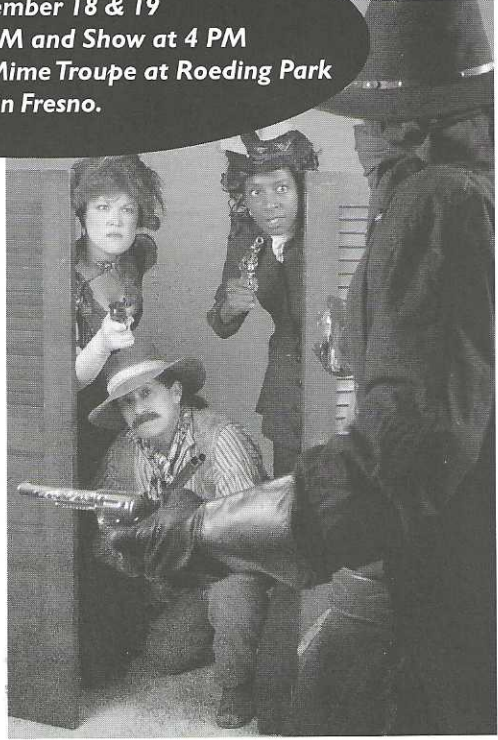
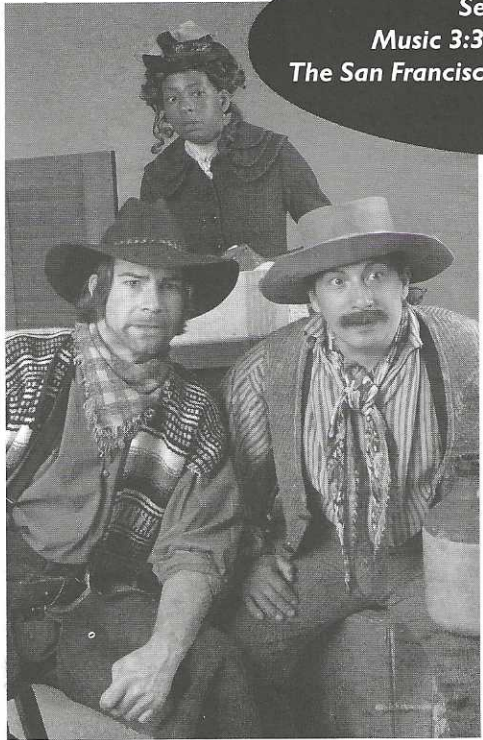
But somehow things ain’t workin’ as smoothly as the mayor and Bogspavin would like. The townspeople are complaining: Is all this security necessary? . . .

Sullivan was a contributing writer for the Mime Troupe’s *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan* and many other shows, and head writer for *Veronique of the Mounties in Operation: Frozen Freedom*, *1600 Transylvania Avenue*, *Eating It*, and *Escape From Cyberia*. He has performed leading and supporting roles in a number of Mime Troupe productions, and directed *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, *1600 Transylvania Avenue*, *I Ain’t Yo Uncle*, *Knocked Up*, *Coast City Confidential*, *Killing Time*, and *Eating It*.

The Mime Troupe’s shows in local parks are performed at a price everyone can afford—free— and are eagerly anticipated by a local audience that often surpasses 40,000 people over the course of the summer. The production will tour Northern and Central California with dates in Sonoma, September 2; Davis, September 11; Sacramento, September 12; Grass Valley, September 15-16; Fresno, September 18-19; Merced, September 22; Modesto, September 23; and Stockton, September 24; with the final performance on September 26 at the Progressives Fair in Petaluma’s Walnut Park.

For more information about the San Francisco Mime Troupe call (415) 285-1717 or visit <[www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org)>.

**Saturday and Sunday  
September 18 & 19  
Music 3:30 PM and Show at 4 PM  
The San Francisco Mime Troupe at Roeding Park  
in Fresno.**



# How to Get Stupid White Men in the Central Valley Out of Office

By Mike Rhodes

Stupid white men and their allies have taken over and are in control of all local government institutions. They have control over the economy, health care system, education, environment, and basically everything else that affects our lives. As a result, we have the worst air quality in the nation, double-digit unemployment, an education system that is failing our children, and a health care system that leaves many of the most vulnerable without protection. The solution is not, as stupid white men's mouthpiece Jerry Duncan suggests, more privatization of essential services, tax breaks for the rich, and deregulation of business.

Up until now the progressive movement has not had a strategy to confront the lock on power that the conservatives have in the Central Valley. Stupid white men run virtually unopposed in race after race. Sure, we are given a choice between one stupid white guy or another stupid white guy, but they are both conservative. In the rare case where there is a progressive candidate on the ballot, he or she is outspent 100 to 1, does not receive fair media coverage, and thus is unable to get elected.

Because there is no real choice among candidates, voters in the Central Valley have become so alienated from the political process that most of them don't even bother to vote. In the last election, a mere 26% of eligible Fresno County voters bothered to cast their ballot for one of the right-wing candidates that were put before them. That 26% figure does not include people who are undocumented foreign workers, foreigners with a green card or student visa, prisoners with a felony conviction, eligible voters who are told at the polling place that they are ineligible to vote, and other disfranchised members of our society. The bottom line is that about 10% of the residents in this area are electing stupid white men and their allies to political office. These elected officials are then making laws and passing ordinances that benefit a very small minority of the rich and powerful.

It doesn't have to be this way. If the progressives came forward with a plan to counter these stupid white men, they would win. Would the poor and working people in the Central Valley, who are by far the majority, rather have

- \* a living wage, or more poverty and unemployment?
- \* clean air and improved public transportation, or increased environmental degradation?
- \* affordable housing, or more homelessness?
- \* free and equal quality education, or a good education only for those who can afford to put their children in private schools?
- \* a war on poverty, or the failed war on drugs?
- \* an Independent Police Auditor, or police brutality?

The majority of people living in the Central Valley will agree with a progressive agenda and vote to elect leaders who represent those values, if given a chance. Our challenge is to provide the leadership that will begin the transfer of power from the far right to the progressive majority. The work has already begun. The Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee has been formed and is working hard to bring fundamental social and political change to this area.

Organizers in the CVPPAC have a three-pronged approach to this work. First, in order to run viable political campaigns, you have to have money. The CVPPAC

is raising money through both fundraisers and membership dues, to be used in future political campaigns. Second, the group will conduct an extensive get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign to elect progressive candidates. The GOTV campaign will consist of voter registration, targeting key districts, getting voters to the polls, and more. Third, the CVPPAC will attract good candidates by providing the infrastructure and resources needed to run a viable electoral campaign. The CVPPAC believes that good candidates will step forward when they see that the progressive community will support their campaign. The CVPPAC is nonpartisan. CVPPAC candidates can be in the Democratic Party, the Green Party, independent, or in any other political party. To get the support of the CVPPAC a candidate simply has to agree with and support progressive core values.

How can you help? The most important thing is to join the CVPPAC. Dues are \$100 a year, a bargain for the value of taking back local government from the right. If everyone reading this article joined the CVPPAC, we would be a lot closer to victory. The next thing is for you to get all of your friends to join the CVPPAC. The more members the group has, the more influential the progressive movement will become. In addition to joining the CVPPAC and convincing all of your friends to join, the organization needs you to become directly involved in the work. There are many subcommittees and tasks that can't be done unless people volunteer to help. Last but not least, think about being a candidate yourself. I know, it is a scary thought. But consider this, you would be so much better than Alan Autry, Brian Calhoun, or Jerry Duncan and we can't remove them from office unless we have someone to run against them.

The CVPPAC is looking strategically at the upcoming elections. Right now, the group is focusing on the Fresno Unified School Board elections. A working group in the CVPPAC has analyzed the issues and formulated a questionnaire for all of the candidates running for the school board. There are questions about candidates' positions on privatization of the schools; their response to Mayor Autry's contract-on-kids proposal; their support for music programs; and so on. The responses will be reviewed, candidates will be interviewed, and a public forum held. The progressive movement, through the leadership of the CVPPAC, will develop a strategy on how to elect good candidates to the FUSD board of trustees.

The CVPPAC is, of course, also looking at the 2006 Fresno City Council and Fresno County Board of Supervisors elections. By 2006 the CVPPAC will have matured and will have significant resources to invest in a couple of these races. How influential and how fast the CVPPAC grows will depend on how many people join and participate in the organization.

How important is one person in the political process? In the 2002 race for Fresno County Supervisor in District 1, agribusiness pesticide salesman Phil Larson beat Democrat Dan Ronquillo by less than 300 votes. One person could have led a campaign and registered 300 voters and got them to the polls. The result would have been a 3-2, left-of-center majority on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. One person could have made the difference!

To join the CVPPAC, return the membership card that is inside this issue of the *Community Alliance* magazine. With your support, and our collective effort, we will create a better future for this community.

***"And so we shall have to do more than register and we shall have to do more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud with enthusiasm."***

***Martin Luther King Jr., 1967***

# Report from the Battlefield

By Maria Telesco

What's a "hearing?" When there's a "hearing," does that imply someone is listening? Or does it suffice that each of a small number of speakers is heard only by the other speakers?

On Thursday, August 12, I attended a public hearing in Sacramento, conducted by the State of California for citizens to present to government officials their thoughts regarding pressing issues in the prisons: quarterly packages sent to prisoners by families and friends, and issues surrounding visiting at those prisons. As most of you know, I visit women on death row at Chowchilla, California. I was accompanied by Donna Larsen, mother of a man on death row at San Quentin.

What a travesty!

About 20 or 30 citizen-activists were scattered like confetti in an auditorium built to hold a couple of hundred. There was a sign-in sheet to let "them" (the powers that be) know who wanted to speak. Speak? To whom?

We thought we were there to address legislators, or possibly someone high up on the CDC (California Department of Corrections) totem pole. Instead, we addressed a tape recorder. A couple of CDC flunkies were there, primarily, it appeared, to make sure the machine didn't run out of tape. So the speakers—each more eloquent than the one before—addressed the flunkies, the tape recorder, and the "choir" on the issues.

Sitting in back of the last row of speakers was a trio of large, menacing-looking, muscle-bound men in three-piece suits, who apparently were there not to listen, but to intimidate the speakers. None of us doubted they were members of the CCPOA (California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the prison guards union). They looked just like the same guards who give us a hard time when visiting. If looks could kill, we'd have been dead.

A couple of words heard more than once, from several speakers, were "Attica" and "bloodbath." Consensus was that if things continue the way they've been going, California will soon host Attica Two and have a bloodbath unlike any seen before. How much longer, we asked, will the CDC continue to abuse prisoners, feed them slop that hogs would turn up their noses at, and lock them in sensory-deprivation cages 24/7. Is this the way to treat human beings? Is this the way to improve people's behavior? Where's the rehabilitation? What about the programs? Do we teach prisoners to be good citizens by insulting their visitors in front of an audience? Do we keep them healthy by starving them? What about medical care? And rape?

Everyone had something bad to say about the packages that we are now required to purchase from vendors at outrageous prices. Many speakers had the same stories—poor quality, terrible prices, shipping errors, overcharging, and so on, ad nauseam. Several speakers commented that most of the approved vendors are companies that came into existence when the new rules were made, and several said they had knowledge that the vendor companies were owned and operated—illegally—by prison employees or their close relatives. "Packages-R-Us" was mentioned specifically. I didn't see any solid evidence to back up those allegations of who owned the vendor companies, but my gut instinct tells me that where there's smoke, there's fire, and where there's money to be made, corruption and profiteering will be close at hand.

Well, at the "hearing"—I really hesitate to call it that—at least I had my say. It was disappointing and discouraging to do business with a Record-A-Phone, but I did get to say my piece. So okay, we all thought, the day wasn't over. After the "hearing"—honestly, I wish I could think of something more accurate to call it—we would go a few blocks over and rally on the steps of the State Capitol. There, we were informed, for the \$300 an organization paid to rent a few chairs and a sound system, we would have the opportunity to express our concerns to the legislators. You know—the legislators? The folks we pay generously to run the place?

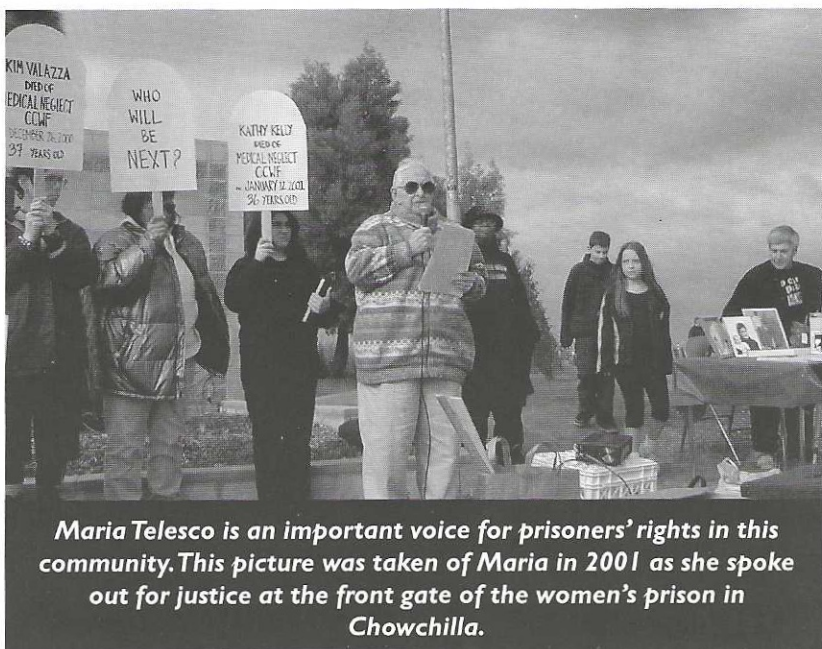
Um-hmmm. We did verbalize our concerns, and maybe some of them did hear us. Not listen, but hear. The legislators, with their assistants and associates, were going to, and returning from, lunch, and it's entirely possible that some of them did hear some utterances, though it was clear that none listened. Not one person stopped, or even slowed down as they hustled about their business. No one even glanced in our direction. And it's not easy to miss a few dozen people sitting right in front of where you're going.

That's too bad, because they missed some good speeches.

One man spoke about his nephew who died in prison a few weeks ago. The prisoner had a toothache. They don't treat toothaches—the only dental care available is extraction. The tooth got pulled, the man got an infection, the infection went untreated, and the man died. And the family wasn't notified—not properly, not in a timely way. And when the family demanded to know where their loved one was,

nobody would tell them. And he died alone. And nobody gave a damn—except his grieving family, who were kept out of the loop. And who didn't need to be disrespected like this. And who shouldn't have been treated this shabbily.

Donna Larsen spoke eloquently about how the state has a law which demands all convicted felons have a DNA test, whether they want it or not. Except if the felon, especially one on death row, requests a DNA test because it might exonerate him—then the test is denied. Donna's son's lawyers went to court and asked the judge to order a DNA test, but he refused. He said it wasn't necessary, and anyway, it would be too expensive. Everyone's DNA gets tested whether they want it or not, except the one person who might be set free by that test.



**Maria Telesco is an important voice for prisoners' rights in this community. This picture was taken of Maria in 2001 as she spoke out for justice at the front gate of the women's prison in Chowchilla.**

Really. It really happens like that. This is the way we run our "justice" system. Our tax dollars at work.

There was one exception to the part about nobody listened: One person finally did stop and pay attention to us. A woman (whose name eludes me at the moment) who works for Senator Vasconcellos, and whose job it is to inform him of prison matters, did come out of the Capitol and spend some time talking with several of us. She took our names and addresses and assured us she would tell the senator of our concerns, and would put each of us on the senator's mailing list for prison-related postings.

Well, maybe that's the best we could have hoped for. It turned out that we were heard, and listened to, by one woman who seemed to care, and who promised to convey our concerns to the senator. I'm grateful that one person paid attention. And I'm irate that family members of prisoners who could ill afford the expenditure, traveled hundreds of miles, at great cost in time and money, and with so much to say, and so much on their minds and in their hearts—and only one person acknowledged our presence. Does that seem right? Maybe, at least, it gives us a glimmer of hope. I hope so.

# Free Speech Watch

By Matthew Rothschild  
The Progressive Magazine  
August 4, 2004

John Kerry, in his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, made an inspiring call to defend free speech. "Tonight, we have an important message for those who question the patriotism of Americans who offer a better direction for our country. Before wrapping themselves in the flag and shutting their eyes and ears to the truth, they should remember what America is really about. . . . Our purpose now is to reclaim democracy itself. We are here to affirm that when Americans stand up and speak their minds and say America can do better, that is not a challenge to patriotism; it is the heart and soul of patriotism."

But on the floor of his own convention, when two Americans—one a delegate, and one with a press pass—tried to stand up and speak their minds and say that America can do better, they were not allowed to do so.

Here are their stories.

## 1. Medea Benjamin

A founder of both Global Exchange and Code Pink, Medea Benjamin had a press pass for the Democratic Convention.

"I went onto the floor of the convention on Tuesday night when Teresa Heinz was speaking and opened up a banner that said, 'End the Occupation of Iraq.' It was maybe three feet by two feet. Pink, of course.

"I was immediately surrounded by police, who tried to take it away from me. They said, 'Only official signs are allowed.'

"I stood my ground, and they started pulling me and pushing me and asked me for my pass, and I showed it to them. They said, 'But she's not press, she shouldn't be here, we've got to get her out.'

"I was in front of the Colorado delegation, and some of them were saying, 'Free speech. Let her stay.' And others were being told that they should get up and surround me and stick their Kerry signs over mine, which they dutifully did.

"And then I heard Teresa Heinz say, 'The true patriot is one who speaks truth to power,' so I started speaking truth to power, and I started yelling, 'Will John Kerry bring the troops home? Will John Kerry take an anti-war stand?'

"Then I got lifted in the air, and as they were dragging me out, I was yelling, 'End the occupation, bring the troops home.'

"They held me for about a half hour. They brought in the Secret Service, the Boston police, the DNC's own security. And they questioned me on everything from my Social Security number and birthday and marital status to my political persuasion. And then they left it up to the DNC to decide if they wanted to press charges. And the DNC folks went out and huddled and came back and said, 'Let her go.' "

Not one to take no for an answer, Benjamin returned the next morning to the Latino caucus. This time, she met more hostility from the DNC but managed to stay put.

"We had a banner saying, 'Bring the Troops Home,' and the DNC security staff tried to grab it. They called us 'bitches,' and they dragged us out. But we went right back inside and held up our sign. And this time, several women, including the vice president of NOW, Olga Vives, stood in front of us with her arms folded and faced the security staff and said, 'Don't you dare touch them.'

"So I climbed up on the table and kept the sign there the whole time while Teresa Heinz and Hillary Clinton were speaking to the caucus."

## 2. Vincent Lavery

Lavery is a longtime Democratic Party member and peace activist. He last went to a Democratic Convention in 1968, as a Robert Kennedy delegate. He was a delegate again this time, for Edwards. Lavery is also one of the cofounders of Peace Fresno, a group immortalized in Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*. I spoke by phone with Lavery on the Sunday morning after the convention. He was back in California, working at the Kerry/Edwards Fresno County campaign, which he co-chairs. He was about to go speak to a Kerry rally with the United Farm Workers, but he was still burning about the treatment he received on the floor of the convention.

"A letter came from the DNC a week or 10 days before, listing about 20 things we shouldn't and couldn't do, and one was no signs," he recalls. "So, the Monday of the convention comes, and in my bag I have a 'Kerry' sign, just that word, 10 inches by 8 inches. It was a sign issued by the Kerry campaign. And it was my intention to write on the back of it, 'Brings the Troops Home, 1/21/05,' but I hadn't done so yet.

"I went through the checkpoints and they took that sign away, which absolutely paralyzed my mind. It was an oxymoron that you couldn't have a 'Kerry' sign at his convention.

"The next day, I was at an antiwar event that the AFSC was putting on, and I picked up five 'Say No to War' signs, which had three-inch sticks on them. I took the stick off one and put the sign in my pocket. As I went through the inspection at the convention, they took the four away from me. So I took out the last one, the one without the stick, from my pocket, and wrote on the back, 'DNC would not allow this sign!'

"I then moved around almost the entire convention, standing in front of each delegation. In many cases, the reaction was complete apathy, a few gave me a frightened thumbs up, and some said sit down and stop being disruptive.

"When I started walking around, the DNC sent out two employees who surrounded me with Kerry/Edwards signs to block me. I said, 'The two of you should be ashamed of yourselves.' I asked one of them, 'Why are you doing this?'

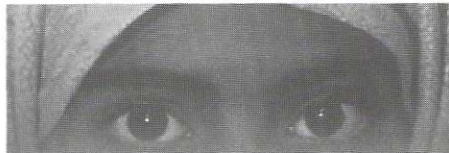
"We have to keep signs away from the TV cameras."

"I said, 'Who instructed you to follow me?'

"His answer was, 'I can't say.' "

Lavery did not buy the argument that everyone in the hall should fall lockstep behind Kerry.

**Vince Lavery was not allowed to hold this sign at the Democratic National Convention.**



## Say No To War!

Join the American Friends Service Committee at:

Eyes Wide Open Outdoor/Indoor Exhibits

July 22: Boston City Hall Plaza  
July 23-25: Boston Social Forum - U Mass, Boston  
July 26: Boston Common at Park Street T/Beacon Hill Friends Meeting House  
July 27: Copley Square Plaza/Beacon Hill Friends Meeting House  
July 28-29: Sennott Park, Central Square, Cambridge/Area IV Youth Center

Calling All Delegates: People's Solutions to National and Global Crises - Teach-in on July 27 - Faneuil Hall

Candlelight Vigil with music and speakers from 9/11 Families, Military Families Speak Out, and others - July 27 - Copley Square

Candlelight Vigil with speakers on issues of peace and justice in designated Free Speech Zone - July 29 - Fleet Center

American Friends Service Committee

For more details: Tel: 617.661.6130 - www.afsc.org/pes.htm

# Living-Wage Ordinance Needed for Public Sector Workers

By Frances Sivac

In 1994, Baltimore's mayor signed into law Council Bill 716 requiring city contractors to pay service workers at least \$6.10 an hour. The first of its kind in the nation, the new living-wage ordinance followed a year-long broad-based grassroots campaign organized by AFSCME and a group of 50 multidominational churches called Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD).

Baltimore's example sparked a grassroots movement. Across the country labor, community, and religious groups began teaming up to organize for living wages and corporate responsibility. While the specifics vary, all campaigns have followed the basic formula used in Baltimore by requiring certain companies receiving public money to pay a living wage and to fulfill other community-driven criteria. More than 200 cities and counties have living-wage ordinances and criteria demands for companies who want to do business with them.

In 2004, is it time for a living-wage ordinance in Fresno? Within all the headlines on economic development and construction growth, I can just hear the phrase, "and we have a cheap labor pool." We must include a conversation about decent wages for workers. If 53% of families receiving public assistance are working families, taxpayers and politicians should be interested in reducing the costs of welfare by ensuring that working families can be self-sufficient. During this campaign season, I encourage all of you to bring this question to candidates. The Living Wage Committee is currently in the research and planning stage. It will be on their agenda in 2005.

## Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?

Monday, September 6, is Labor Day, the day working families celebrate and rededicate themselves to guaranteeing that every worker has the freedom to form a union without employer interference. We know that:

- + Union members earn 26 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.
- + More than 75 percent of union workers have health benefits. Less than half of nonunion workers have health coverage.
- + Nearly 70 percent of union workers have a pension. Only 14 percent of non-union workers have one.
- + The 10 states where unions are strongest have higher earnings, better health coverage, less crime, more civic participation, less poverty, and better schools than the 10 states where union membership is lowest.

That is why more and more of America's workers want union jobs or want a union where they work. More than 42 million nonunion workers say they want to join a union. However, employers often harass and intimidate workers when they join together to form their union. That is wrong, often illegal, and most definitely a violation of the human rights of those workers.

Independent research shows that:

- + 25 percent of employers illegally fire at least one worker for union activity during organizing campaigns.
- + 75 percent of employers hire union-busters to fight union organizing.

+ 78 percent of employers force employees to attend one-on-one meetings with their own supervisors against the union.

+ 52 percent of employers threaten to call the Immigration and Naturalization Service during organizing that includes undocumented workers.

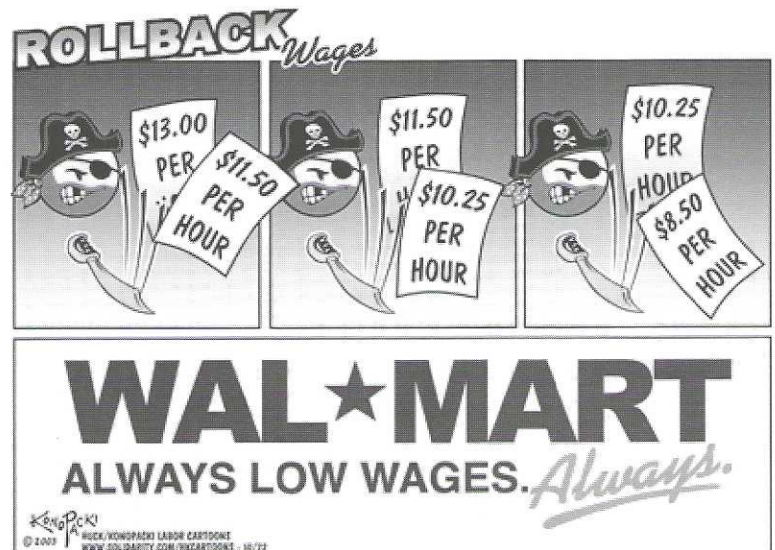
+ 51 percent of companies threaten to close the plant if the union wins the election; however, less than 1 percent ever actually do that.

## Wal Mart - Caught Feeding at the Public Trough

By Mike Rhodes

*My friend Ray Ensher faxed me a portion of a talk given by Tim Reese at the Fresno Metro Ministry Nutrition Forum. Reese is the CEO at the Fresno Community Food Bank. While Mr. Reese was hesitant to publicly identify the corporation that gives out information on how to get public assistance to its new hires, the Community Alliance is not: That corporation is Wal-Mart. Here is what Reese had to say at the forum, which was held on June 16, 2004:*

Do you realize that the largest retail corporation in the world actually teaches their employees how to get public benefit? I don't want to make a libelous statement but you can assume who the world's largest retailer is, and the top four wealthiest people are part of that family. They literally do not pay living wages, and they literally teach employees how to get food stamps and other federal programs, so what you and I are doing is not only subsidizing the corporate welfare on one end, we are then subsidizing, through our taxes again, nonliving wages and unfair labor practices—so we pay twice, you and I do every day. It is absolutely appalling. So the number of working poor is increasing and I'll tell you why. This corporation, which has no control and no constraint, is the model now for corporate America. Every other company, to survive, must compete with that company and adapt the same business practices, so you will no longer see in the future union grocers, you will not see full-time employees in the retail world, you will not see living-wage jobs for middle America. The polarization in our society is accelerating at an unbelievable speed, and if we don't change it, in 50 years you would not recognize our own country, the change is so incredibly rapid that's occurring. But that's a whole other topic that I could get lost in.



# WHY BECOME A PEACE FRESNO MEMBER?

By Genie Baranoff, President of Peace Fresno

Peace Fresno requests the honor of your membership and continued support. This is a critical time to stand for peace, civil liberties, and social justice. As the Iraq and Afghanistan wars rage out of control, as Haiti remains without its democratically elected government due to a US-backed coup, as the Palestinians remain brutalized and isolated in an apartheid occupation, it is essential for Peace Fresno to increase its efforts to be a visible presence for peace, true democracy, and justice. The fight against military recruiters having access to our schoolchildren continues.

The Peace Fresno message was given a boost with the inclusion in the Michael Moore film *Fahrenheit 9/11*. People have been e-mailing and calling in their heartfelt support, including Michael Moore who accepted membership in Peace Fresno! Our activities have been reported on *NOW* with Bill Moyers, *90 Minutes* (French TV show on Chanel Plus), and in the *Fresno Bee*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Peace Works Magazine* (American Friends Service Committee), *Salon.com*, and the local media.

Peace Fresno has many committees: (1) Opt-in to restrict military recruitment in the public schools, (2) Marches and Rallies, (3) Street Theatre/Puppets/Songs, (4) Teach-ins and Forums, (5) Letter Writing, (6) Tabling and "Flyering" at Fashion Fair Mall, (7) Veterans for Peace, (8) Establishing other "Peace Corners" for Friday night demonstrations.

Peace Fresno has sponsored many local peace marches, rallies, vigils, events, and bus or car trips to SF, Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab and Sacramento protests, Tower District rally, Bush protest at the Convention Center, WTO protests, River Park to the Peace Corner, March 20 Anniversary of the Occupation, State of the Union event, the successful letter-writing campaign to Boxer/Feinstein/Dooley/Attorney General Lockyer concerning the infiltration, Earth Day, Memorial Day, Wall of Lies at CSUF, Fresno/Oxford Debates.

Peace Fresno has participated in and endorsed and/or co-sponsored: the SEIU 250 march and rally, vigil for Universal Human Rights, the Martin Luther King March, Cesar Chavez March, Blue Triangle Network National Day of Solidarity, Haiti coup protest, immigrant rights, Westside Peace March, Patriot Act Forum, Gay Pride event, Israeli Refuseniks and US Conscientious Objectors forum, Alaska wilderness + Tongass preserve support, the northern California peace centers conference in Santa Cruz, Indigenous People's Day, Marcha Por La Paz—Marcha Por Los Ninos, Campus Peace and Civil Liberties video series, and Women Standing Against Violence.

Peace Fresno is a community-based, volunteer nonprofit organization. Contributions to Peace Fresno are not tax-deductible. We depend on membership dues and donations to fund our activities. Please support Peace Fresno by becoming a member today. Our membership form is the blue insert in this month's *Community Alliance*.

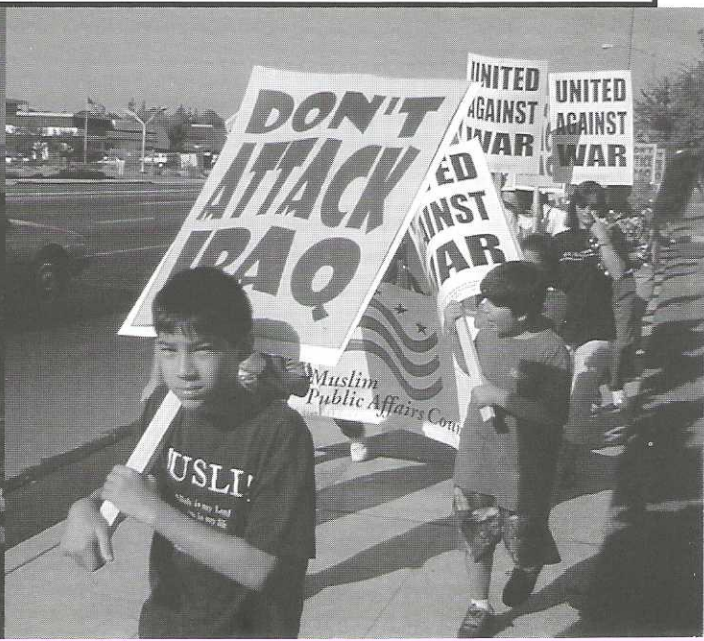
Peace Fresno meets every Tuesday night at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N. Van Ness (southeast corner at McKinley). Please visit our website at [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org). Our phone number is (559) 487-2515. Please join us!



**Peace Fresno Election Announcement  
September 21, 2004  
(Tuesday) 7:30 PM  
Fresno Center for Nonviolence  
1584 North Van Ness at McKinley  
Membership will vote on all Peace Fresno  
Board Positions:**

**President, Vice-President (for Membership),  
Vice-President (for Publicity), Treasurer, Secretary, 4  
Board Members at Large. Nominations will be accepted  
until the night of the election,  
up to 7:00 PM.**

**For more information see our Web site:  
[www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)**





# Campus Peace and Civil Liberties

By Shawn Putnam

Fresno State's Campus Peace and Civil Liberties has a lot planned for the fall semester! The group hopes to bring much excitement, as well as enlightenment, to the Fresno State campus and community. For starters, there will be a speakers' series held on Thursdays at the Free Speech Area. This series will allow students, professors, and interested community members to voice their opinions about the current state of affairs, providing students on campus with information not often accessible. For more information and/or the opportunity to speak, please contact Khara at popeq@csufresno.edu.

Continuing from last semester, Shawn will be hosting a variety of films on Thursday evenings. Films will cover topics that will help promote awareness in anticipation of the upcoming election. Currently, Shawn is trying to arrange a free showing of Fahrenheit 9/11, featuring a local peace group, Peace Fresno. All films will conclude with a discussion session, and welcome all viewpoints. To receive a schedule of the films please e-mail Shawn at thatboyshawn@hotmail.com.

In addition to the above series, Campus Peace and Civil Liberties will be planning many other events throughout the semester. In coalition with many other groups, Campus Peace is holding a 9/11 commemorative event on September 9 in the Fresno State Peace Garden. Also, in what is hoped to be the first among many, the politically motivated reggae band, Green Machine, has tentatively scheduled a free concert for the latter part of September. To find out more about Campus Peace and Civil Liberties events, please join the moderated listserv by e-mailing Ruth at bbruthoj@yahoo.com.

Attention students, teachers and professors: Most of the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties events are educational, and aimed at increasing students' awareness. For this reason we hope educators will offer incentives to encourage student participation. Please contact Campus Peace if you are interested in learning ways you can get involved or for a list of educators who offer incentives to students.

# A Sign of CHAANGE!

By Gary Dennis



**Councilmember  
Cynthia Sterling**

A lot of progress has been made since last I wrote. CHAANGE has had its meeting with Cynthia Sterling, city councilmember of District 3, on July 23 at four in the afternoon. It was an exciting moment for CHAANGE to finally be able to sit down with Cynthia and begin to discuss and connect with her around the issues of HIV/AIDS that are affecting the community, particularly in the zip code of 93706 and west Fresno, which is in her District. HIV/AIDS is not a stranger to Cynthia, since she has had experience dealing with it in the funeral business. She said that

CHAANGE has an open door when it comes to her office and that she is supportive of our program. She has had her communications director, Marlin Ezell, attend our last two meetings, which is a big sign to say that she is interested in what CHAANGE is doing for the community. And with that being said, let me bring you up to speed on our current CHAANGE project.

CHAANGE is finalizing the final details of its HIV/AIDS Billboard Awareness campaign. The billboard committee that was put together from the August 6 meeting has decided on the message and design of the billboard. This has been set off to Vista Media, and their design team will make the prototype for our final approval on August 27. On that day, we'll know how much Sterling's office and the County of Fresno are willing to contribute to make this happen! These 10 billboards throughout south Fresno represent the first time that Fresno has ever had billboards addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS. It has been said that billboards reach a wide range of viewers because of their visibility. And when we begin to talk about grassroots efforts in regard to HIV/AIDS, visibility is a key point!

So to conclude, keep your eyes open and look for the "signs" of CHAANGE; we are working fervently to bring together the Fresno community and hopefully the greater San Joaquin Valley around the issue of HIV/AIDS. Do your part and join in the cause! Our next CHAANGE Makers meeting is September 10, 2004, 1-3 PM, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. (the southeast corner of Van Ness and McKinley just south of Fresno City College). Call to RSVP at (559) 268-1969 or e-mail gary.dennis@chaange.org. If you feel that you can't physically help out, you can always contribute financially. Make your checks payable to "CHAANGE/San Joaquin Valley." Thank you and take care!

## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno



**Rev. Bryan D. Jessup**

*Welcomes you, whoever you are  
and whomever you call family, our doors are open.*

### Sermon Topics:

- 9-5 • "Books that Enchant" What Makes a Classic? -Denise Sciandra with Gary Rossi on piano
- 9-12 • "Return, Remember, Rekindle" - Rev. Bryan Jessup, Aubree Smith, DRE
- 9-19 • "The Mission and the Message" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
- 9-26 • "A Time for Atonement" - Rev. Bryan Jessup

Services 9:15 & 11:00 am • Church School 9:15 & 11:00 am  
Nursery care Available  
4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno • Phone: 227-6146

**Save-the-Date!**  
**2nd Annual**  
**TAMEJAVI FESTIVAL**  
**Presented by the Pan Valley Institute -- AFSC**  
**October 1 - 3, 2004**  
**In Tower Theatre and**  
**surrounding area**  
**Contact: Mai Der Vang**  
**559-222-7678 or**  
**mdvang@afsc.org**



# Queer Eye: Diana Bohn — and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network

(part 1 of 3)  
By Dan Waterhouse

After nearly four years on the cutting edge of youth activism in the Central Valley, Gay-Straight Alliance Network community organizer Diana Bohn returned to active ministry in August, as pastor of a United Methodist church in Oakhurst.

She leaves behind in a sense—she will be serving on GSA Network’s statewide board—an organization that has empowered youth in a way no other local group ever has.

“The culture here in the Central Valley is very disempowering to youth,” Bohn said. “Often youth are mentored into working on adult-driven projects that aren’t owned by them. In GSA Network, on the other hand, the students are organizing with others their own age. They’re empowered by federal and California state laws, and through their own networking efforts as activists.”

Many of the youth who are involved in GSA Network, Bohn commented, “are also involved in the larger community.”

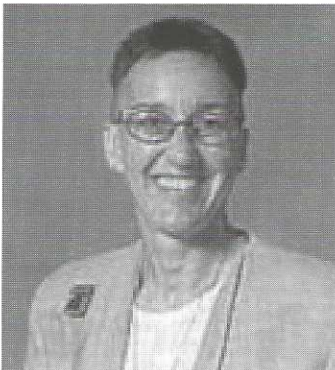
“I started GSA Network in 1998 after working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning students in the Bay Area where I ran a youth support group,” founder Carolyn Laub says. “I witnessed youth coming to our support group meetings week after week talking about harassment at school. While our group provided a place to feel safe and get support, I wanted to figure out a way to change the school environment—to stop the harassment before it began.

“One student came to our group and shared her experience of starting a GSA club at her school in Palo Alto, which she had done in solidarity with the students in Salt Lake City whose club had been banned by the school board there. The Salt Lake City case had received national attention because the school board had banned all clubs in order to be able to ban the GSA club. This prompted many students all over the country to start GSA clubs. When I heard about the phenomenon, it seemed like the perfect vehicle to empower young people to change their schools—to prevent harassment at school and to give young people a voice.

“The young woman from Palo Alto who shared her experience inspired everyone in our support group to want to start a club at their school. I could see how the movement could take off, if only young people had a way to connect with each other and learn from each other . . . i.e., a network!

“The Gay-Straight Alliance is led by youth because we believe that youth have the power to create solutions and lead the fight against homophobia.”

In October 1998, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network became a fiscally sponsored project of The Tides Center, which gave the organization status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit and allowed it to receive tax-deductible donations from individuals and organizations.



## Bohn First Involved in GSA Network as Volunteer

“In 2000, I got a phone call from a social worker while I was still at Wesley (United Methodist Church),” Bohn explained. “Wesley, as you know, was the first United Methodist Church to open its doors to glbt people in the community here, and has a very high-profile and long history as an inclusive church.”

“The social worker had a 15-year-old male who had attempted to kill himself and who was hospitalized. He self-identified as gay. She was looking for someone knowledgeable to talk with him. When we spoke with him, we discovered that his home was not a safe space for him because of religious and other issues.

“He told us of how his mother had sent him to church authorities in order to exercise demons from him. They used many methods including stomping on the youth’s back.”

After arranging a “safe space” for the boy, Bohn said the social worker asked her about available training. “It became apparent, there was a lack of support for glbt youth because of the dearth of knowledge.”

The experience with the 15-year-old led Bohn to meet with Laub. She became a volunteer late in 2000.

“The volunteer position became a part-time, then a full-time, paid staff position—as the Central Valley organizer,” Bohn said.

Before she became involved with GSA Network, she had 14 years experience as primary program staff in justice and advocacy at Wesley. Wesley was also the second United Methodist Church in the country (15 years ago) to declare itself open to the glbt community.

She has been involved with Clergy and Laity Concerned, San Joaquin Valley Exchange Works, and in the establishment and leadership of a support group called “All Together Different” for children and youth whose parents are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

*(story continues in next month’s issue of the Community Alliance Magazine)*



Dan Waterhouse is a columnist for NewsLink, Central California’s only print glbt news source. Waterhouse also writes for QueerFresno, a local webzine. Dan’s main focus is the Waterhouse Report, which is far-ranging, and occasionally provocative and highly opinionated. He served as the public relations coordinator and photographer for this year’s Pride Parade and Festival.



# September Take-Action Report

By Vickie Fouts

Recently I listed Web sites that provide action alerts or newsletters that may be of interest to you. This month I have listed local listservs.

**ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA IN FRESNO:** Alliance for Community Media in Fresno is organizing a campaign that will bring community access TV to Fresno. Comcast can provide free access and studio time to community groups that have a message and want to produce a TV show. Join by sending an e-mail to [Alliance\\_for\\_Community\\_Media\\_in\\_Fresno\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Alliance_for_Community_Media_in_Fresno_subscribe@yahoo.com).

**CENTRAL VALLEY DEMOCRATS—CDC-Central Newsletter:** This is a moderated list where only the "editor" can post messages. To join send an e-mail to [larrytcdc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larrytcdc@sbcglobal.net) with "Request Subscription to CDC-CentralNewsletter@yahoo.com" in the subject line.

**CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC:** Works to promote—through education and action—human, civil, and workers' rights, environmental protection and government reform, by electing progressive candidates to local office. Join at [groups.yahoo.com/group/CVPPAC/join](mailto:<groups.yahoo.com/group/CVPPAC/join>).

**FRESNO FILMWORKS:** Activists, organizers, subscribers, and audience members of the Fresno Filmworks nonprofit, organized and dedicated to bringing a fine art film house to Fresno and the Central Valley. Join by sending an e-mail to [fresnofilmworks\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:fresnofilmworks_subscribe@yahoo.com).

**FRESNO GREENS:** A moderated group for the distribution of the "Green Week in Fresno" calendar of events as well as other news and announcements for the Green Party of Fresno County, California. Join by sending an e-mail to [FresnoGreens\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:FresnoGreens_subscribe@yahoo.com).

**FRESNO HAPPENINGS:** Interesting musical and spoken-word events in the Fresno area. Who said there was nothing to do in Fresno? Join by sending an e-mail to Devoya Mayo at [deepharcyde@yahoo.com](mailto:deepharcyde@yahoo.com).

**KFCF/KPFA FORUM:** An e-mail forum designed for open subscription; unmoderated, unfettered and uncensored discussion of issues relating to Central California public radio station KFCF, the Fresno Free College Foundation, Community Radio Coalition, KPFA, Pacifica Radio, LPFM, or whatever related topics are on your mind. Join by sending an e-mail to [KFCF\\_subscribe@topica.com](mailto:KFCF_subscribe@topica.com).

**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR:** A free e-mail service of the *Community Alliance* magazine featuring a regularly updated calendar of events. The e-mail list is also used when there is an urgent action alert to mobilize the community to support peace and social justice events. This service is sent weekly to several hundred people in the Fresno area. To join send an e-mail to [AllianceEditor@comcast.net](mailto:AllianceEditor@comcast.net) saying that you would like to subscribe.

**PEACE FRESNO:** You can join a discussion forum to talk about progressive issues as they relate to local issues by sending an e-mail to [organize-disc@lists.riseup.net](mailto:organize-disc@lists.riseup.net); or a news posting forum where you can post or read progressive news stories at [organize-news@lists.riseup.net](mailto:organize-news@lists.riseup.net).

**FRESNO STONEWALL DEMOCRATS:** Devoted to advancing the equal rights of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, preference, or identity. Fresno Stonewall Democrats support the Democratic Party and those Democratic candidates who support our mission. To join send an e-mail to [fresnostonewall@mangen.com](mailto:fresnostonewall@mangen.com).

**SunMT.:** SunMt. has a listserv that is sent out by George Ballis. Good information from local, national, and international sources about political activism. George

is always filming events around the area and sends notice of when you can see yourself and fellow activists in a short clip on his Web site. To join send an e-mail to George Ballis at [mail@sunmt.org](mailto:mail@sunmt.org).

**THE TOWEREXCHANGE:** A free online vehicle for exchanging information and views about issues, events, and the quality of life in Fresno's historic Tower District. Appropriate topics include anything relevant to the Tower District. Please post Tower area neighborhood events. Opinions of any nature and perspective are encouraged. You'd be surprised at how many of your neighbors will agree with you. Join by sending an e-mail to [TowerExchange\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:TowerExchange_subscribe@yahoo.com).

**VALLEY AIR ALERTS:** Put your body in action while you still can. We have to fill the occasional public hearing with concerned citizens. Expertise is not needed. Experience at trying to live and breathe in the San Joaquin Valley is the only requirement. Join by sending an e-mail to Kevin Hall at [Hallmos@aol.com](mailto:Hallmos@aol.com) and put "Valley Air" in the subject line.

There are other listservs active in the Fresno area. If you would like to list your favorite local listserv on the *Community Alliance* website [fresnoalliance.com/home](mailto:<fresnoalliance.com/home>), send details to [AllianceEditor@comcast.net](mailto:AllianceEditor@comcast.net).

## Livermore Weapons Lab Protest

By Shawn Putnam

Peace Fresno would like to thank everyone for their involvement with the events on August 8, 2004, when we chartered a bus to the annual Lawrence Livermore Weapons Lab Protest. Thirty community members, representing eight community groups, participated. In addition to Peace Fresno, the other groups represented were Fresno WILPF, Fresno State Campus Peace and Civil Liberties, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Fresno Interfaith Alliance, Fresno Green Party, The Reedley High School Students against War, and the Reedley Peace Center. George Ballis was also present doing what he does best: filming all the events.

Here is a brief report back on the events that evolved that day and Monday. Between five and six hundred protesters were involved with the Sunday protest, despite the extreme heat. The event was sponsored by fifty different organizations. Thirty different tables were scattered around the area for people to learn and network and plan things with. There was a large assortment of speakers: Medea Benjamin representing Global Exchange and Code Pink; Utah Phillips with poetry and music; The California Peace Action Network discussed congressional funding and election issues. Many people spoke on behalf of the Books Not Bombs theme, environmental justice, and many others spoke on many other peace-oriented themes. The march ended with a large drum circle at the front of the gate to the Lab. On Monday about fifty others engaged in civil disobedience at the lab. Twenty-three people were arrested and let out later in the day.

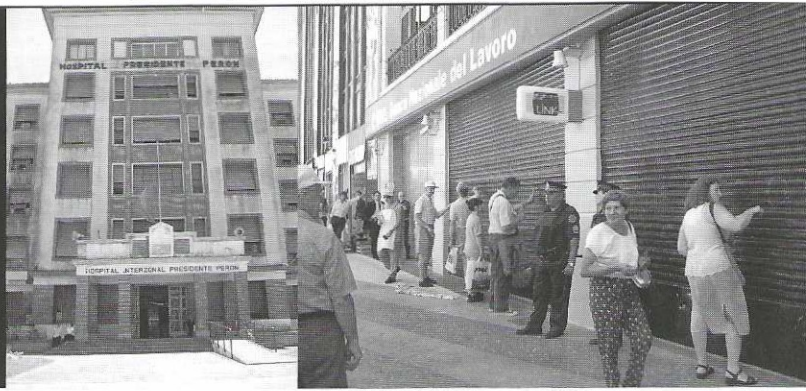
### Jacob M. Weisberg

Attorney at Law

Law Office of  
JACOB M. WEISBERG  
844 N. Van Ness Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 441-0201  
FAX (559) 442-3164  
Email: [jmw@jweisberglaw.com](mailto:jmw@jweisberglaw.com)

**Facade of the Presidente Peron hospital, evidence of better days**



**Protesters "scratching" on the metal coverings of a bank building. Such protests take place weekly. Demonstrators move from bank to bank.**

## **"This Is Your Future"**

by Jan Slagter

In these words, I heard Horacio Quevedo, a registered nurse working three jobs in order to take home about \$330 a month, predict that Argentines' suffering is a fate we in the United States will share, when I participated in a "reality tour" in Buenos Aires in January. After all, with the WTO, FTAA, and so on, poverty-producing economic and political policies are global.

In late December 2001, the Argentine economy, which had been weakening for at least five years, crashed. The government, at the insistence of international lending agencies (and the US has the biggest share of control of these agencies) let the Argentine peso fall. Those fortunate enough to have savings were prohibited from withdrawing their money from banks.

Factories had been closing before this event, and now more failed. Unemployment was already high and shot up to more than 30%. Within six months, Argentina, which had had the highest standard of living in all of Latin America, the most skilled labor force and the most diversified economy, had *half* of its population living in poverty.

What caused the fall? Economic policies through which the Argentine government sold off or outsourced nearly all publicly owned services, and the unscrupulous practices of local and international "investors." We are living through an era in which we're told that big government that provides services to its citizens is bad and must shrink.

Argentines, whose elite were investing outside their country, and whose government was on the take and linked to wealthy interests (think Halliburton, Enron), needed outside capital, and the international financial institutions made outsourcing, opening up the market to foreign companies, and shrinking of government part of the price of the loans.

And Argentina became the champion privatizer. The government privatized the railroads. Railroad buyers shut down all but a few miles and, of course, fired most of the workers. The government sold the mail service, and energy production services. They even sold the street signs!

The government sold off the services that provide water, sewers, and water treatment to half of Argentines, those who conveniently live in and around Buenos Aires, to the multinational company that administers the Suez Canal. In order to make the water system attractive to this Fortune 500 company, the government first set about raising water rates more than 100%.

Suez's policies have almost doubled water bills again. Forty percent of water workers lost their jobs, but Suez's profits for nine years exceeded even the 6-12% that US businesses consider reasonable. Services? The contract stipulates that Suez will not only expand the water delivery system, but also the sewer and drainage system. But the company has focused on expanding services where it will gain the most profit, which does not include sewers in poorer neighborhoods. (Does anyone remember Jim Patterson's plan to privatize Fresno's sewers?)

One of Horacio's jobs is in the Juan Peron regional hospital, a hospital that was state of the art when it was built for the purpose of providing excellent health care to workers residing in an impoverished neighborhood of Buenos Aires, in 1950. Here, Eva Peron, "Evita," lived out her last painful months in a room that still holds furnishings she used until her death from breast cancer.

Besides selling off state enterprises, Argentina has had to cut education, health care, and all other forms of social funding. Argentina has universal health care, but has outsourced all but medical and janitorial staff at its hospitals.

Hospital Juan Peron is falling apart. It no longer has the budget to maintain all areas of the building in working condition. The machines in the large laundry room are rusting; the former cafeteria is now a storage facility and inhabited by rats. Food and laundry services have been outsourced. The only laundry and food service workers at the hospital are those who load and unload the trucks of the private company, and these workers earn far less than did the unionized workers who preceded them.

Health programs are grossly under-funded. The poverty that has resulted from the cuts in public spending and the disappearance of decent jobs are evident here. Nurses and doctors report seeing growing rates of such illnesses as rickets, malnutrition, and TB, which had been rare in Argentina.

Yes, there are many differences between the United States and Argentina. But tax cuts for businesses and the wealthy mean that we face similar crises and similar trends in privatizing. States receive less funding from federal taxes for education and health care, for example, and now the State of California is raiding local tax sources to make up for its tax cuts. Even Mayor Autry is lobbying against this move.

As US citizens it is extremely important for us to learn the role of this country in Argentina's troubles. Most striking for me was the realization of the continued US military presence in Argentina. While we may know that the United States trained many of the Argentine officers who disappeared, tortured, and killed 30,000 Argentines from 1976 to 1983, and provided financial aid to the military dictators, I was shocked to learn that the United States has been conducting joint military exercises in Argentina over the last several years, and that we have Marines in the Misiones area.

It is not a coincidence that the world's third-largest fresh-water reserve, the Guarani Aquifer, lies under that territory, and that multinational companies are negotiating for its control. The United States presses Argentina for permanent bases, surveils, collects intelligence, and trains Argentine and other Latin American armies in new technologies, toward the end of protecting what may soon be a privatized aquifer.

I went to Argentina to learn what Argentines have been doing to recreate their livelihoods, and they have a lot to teach us. Their presence in the streets brought down four successive governments in two weeks. They have created neighborhood popular assemblies, direct democracies, which meet weekly and develop local economic and political alternatives and strategies. Many sectors of the movement are completely opposed to *all* political parties, preferring to create their own nonpartisan alternatives.

Factory workers have reopened more than 200 factories that their owners have declared bankrupt and abandoned, including the largest ceramic tile factory in Argentina. Unemployed workers' movements regularly block the highways at strategic points and at the same time have created popular education, as well as kitchens and bakeries to feed the poor. They created alternative currencies based on barter systems, which were in use by at least 5 million (out of a population of 35 million) people at their height. They are learning to work together, to act collectively despite differences, to build decentralized populist organizations.

To find out about Global Exchange reality tours, contact <[www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)>.

For information on current movements in Argentina, see <[www.lavaca.ar](http://www.lavaca.ar)> and indymedia's Argentina site.

# Outsource This

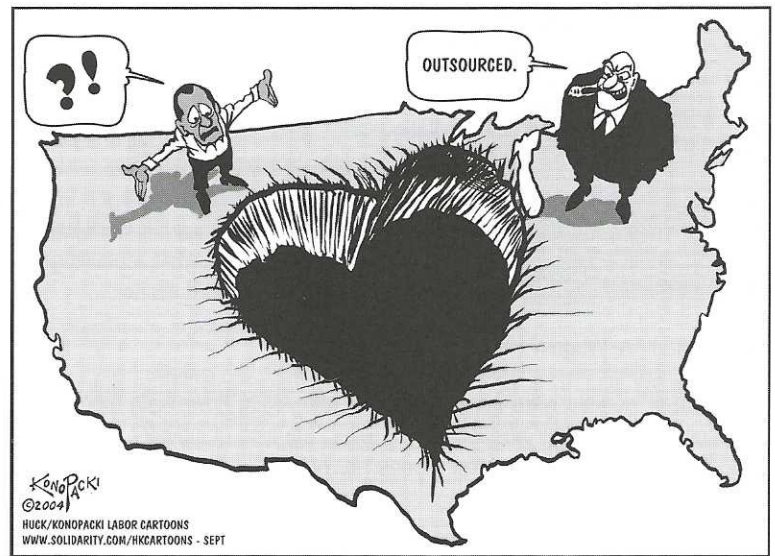
By Mike Rhodes

In May 2004 the City Council of Fresno voted to outsource the incarceration of people who have had too much to drink. The plan calls for an outdoor drunk tank to be run by evangelical Christians, who will take over the duties of trained professionals who work at the Fresno County jail. Correctional officers at the jail are members of Service Employees International Union Local 535, are paid a living wage, and receive medical benefits. The director of the Rescue Mission makes no guarantee that his employees have training as correctional officers, will be paid a living wage, or that they will receive medical benefits. He also admits that spiritual guidance will be offered to help those who find themselves on the wrong side of the razor-wire fence. But, our City Council members assure us that this is a good plan, because it might save Fresno County taxpayers money.

Not to be outdone by the Fresno City Council, the Fresno County Sheriff's department set up a computer with access to criminal histories, vehicle registrations, and other information at the Harris Farms feedlot in Coalinga. Officials within the Fresno County Sheriff's department set up the unofficial substation on the feedlot owned by agribusiness heavyweight John Harris, allegedly to guard against eco-terrorists who might stop and look at his farming operation. Harris told the *Fresno Bee* that the feedlot has been targeted by domestic terrorists linked to radical environmentalists and animal-rights activists. In other words, the Fresno County Sheriff's department has outsourced work by giving security guards at a feedlot access to classified and sensitive information available only to law-enforcement personnel. The State attorney general is looking into the matter.

Sheriff Pierce also caused raised eyebrows recently when it was discovered he has been moonlighting for the last 18 months as a \$1000/month consultant for a private security company. While Pierce was employed by the Fresno County Private Security company, Pierce's department sold three county vehicles to them. The vehicles and uniforms used by Fresno County Private Security look almost exactly like the Fresno County Sheriff's department cruisers and uniforms. Off-duty sheriff's deputies often work for private security companies to make extra money. The line between official law-enforcement personnel and rent-a-cops has never been thinner.

Law enforcement has been resourceful in finding new ways to save the taxpayers money. Prisoners are now being used to replace workers at jobs throughout Fresno County. While most residents are used to seeing prisoners in this area assigned to roadside clean-up crews, they are now being given new and more creative jobs. You will now see Fresno County inmates filing paperwork for judges



at the Superior Court, cleaning the stables for police horses, and fixing sprinklers at Fresno County facilities.

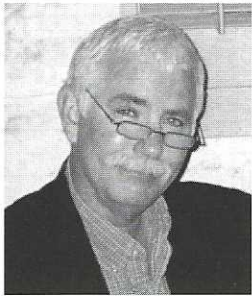
When the new Save Mart Center opened up in North Fresno earlier this year, the Fresno City Council voted to hire an outside company to manage the downtown convention center. Fresno mayor Allan Autry said that outsourcing the management of the convention center would save the city more than \$6 million a year. What he didn't say was how many good-paying jobs would be lost or how families will survive without health insurance benefits.

In the past, local government has privatized health care (Valley Medical Center), education (like the Edison Corporation's takeover of Bethune Elementary school), and other vital public services. Now they are looking to outsource garbage services, park and recreation workers' jobs, the zoo, security at City Hall, the development of downtown Fresno, and more. Elected officials are not concerned about providing better services, paying workers a decent wage, or creating a more livable environment for us. Benefiting from this race to the bottom are the corporate CEOs who secure the new contracts with the city, evangelical Christians who are paid to rant at alcoholics, and those in positions of power like Sheriff Pierce, who abuses his privilege at the community's expense. The mantra of the ruling class seems to be: Privatize the profit and socialize the risk.

To see one possible scenario about where this outsourcing of vital public services might be heading, read the accompanying article about Argentina by my fellow *Community Alliance* editorial board member Janet Slagter. In many ways, Fresno and the Central Valley are not that different from a third world country. Chronic double-digit unemployment, an outrageously high dropout rate for high school students (23% in Fresno), the worst smog in the country, too many people without health insurance, and an erosion of public services that is taking place at a dizzying rate. No wonder they call the Central Valley the new Appalachia of America. Before long they will be calling us the new Argentina of the Americas.

**The car on the left is from the Fresno County Sheriff's Department. The car on the right is used by a security company which has been associated with Sheriff Pierce.**





# Marxism I A

By John Crockford\*

"Wage Labour and Capital" was originally published in 1891 as a pamphlet. Written by Karl Marx and later translated and edited by Frederick Engels, it is offered here in a form that attempts to bring this work forward into twenty-first-century America, while remaining true to the original ideas put forth by the author.

## Part 1 What Are Wages? How Are They Determined?

If a group of workers were brought together and asked how much money they made on their jobs, their answers would reflect the type of industry within which they worked. Very often the worker will describe his or her pay in a dollar amount, or as it compares to the minimum wage standard in the area where he or she works. Some would respond that they receive "minimum wage," while others would say that they receive "a little bit more than minimum wage" or describe an amount over the minimum wage. But despite the variety of their answers, they would all agree that their wages are the amount of money which the employer pays for a certain period of work (usually measured by the hour) or a certain amount of work (usually measured by the amount of pieces produced, crops picked, or tasks completed).

From this it would appear that the employer buys workers' labor with money and that for money, workers sell their labor to the employer, yet what the workers are actually selling is their labor-power. And the employer buys this labor-power for a day, a week, a month, or more. And after he buys this labor-power, the employer uses what he or she just bought by letting the workers perform their jobs (allowing them to "labor") during the stipulated time. With the same amount of money that they are paying the workers for their labor-power, the employers could have bought a certain amount of sugar, seed, raw materials, or any other commodity. Labor-power, then, is a commodity—no more and no less than the sugar. The first is measured by the clock, the other by the scales.

The worker's commodity (labor-power) is exchanged for the commodity of the employer (money) and at a certain ratio: so much money for a period of use of a worker's labor-power. For eight hours of work, eight hours of pay. And the eight hours of pay (money) represents all the other commodities that can be purchased (at a certain ratio) with this money. In essence, by giving the worker money, the employer has given the worker an amount of food, an amount of clothing, and so on, in exchange for his or her work. The money therefore expresses the relation in which labor-power is exchanged for other commodities. This is the exchange-value of labor-power.

The exchange value of a commodity estimated in money is called its price. Wages therefore are only a special name for the price of labor-power, usually called the "price of labor." This is the special name for the price of this peculiar commodity, which manifests itself only in human flesh and blood.

Before a product is presented for sale—presumably for a profit—the employer must first purchase all the components necessary to produce the item he intends to sell. Whether it be raw materials, machinery, or labor-power, the employer must purchase these from existing capital—his or her own money. Even an enterprising individual who has no money must purchase capital (a commodity) from someone else before beginning production. Long before an item is produced and offered for sale, the necessary labor-power is purchased and the worker has received his or her wages. Wages are that part of already existing commodities with which the employer buys a certain amount of productive labor-power.

Consequently, labor-power is a commodity which its possessors, the wage-workers, sell to the employer. They sell it in order to live.

Putting labor-power into action—i.e., work—is the active expression of the worker's

own life. The life activity the worker sells to another person is necessary to secure the necessary means of life. It is, therefore, only a means of securing his or her own existence. The worker does not count labor itself as a part of his or her life. It is a sacrifice of life. It is a commodity that is auctioned off to another. Life (with family and community and in pursuit of happiness), therefore, begins where this activity ceases.

Next month: Part 2 By What Is the Price of a Commodity Determined?

\* John Crockford is the Green Party candidate for the 29th Assembly District.

## Poetry Corner

We welcome first-time contributor Ellie Orrin to Poetry Corner. She writes in response to the current catastrophe in Darfur, but with the experience of having lived through World War II as a child in Europe.

### DARFUR

we are people  
who feel and think  
we have passions  
for ourselves, for others and for causes

we have imagination  
to picture  
what we want for ourselves, for others  
and sometimes what we want to change

we have opinions  
expressed through votes  
to be represented fairly  
in our passions  
for ourselves and in the future

where is that passionate fire  
when genocide takes place  
under our eyes  
and the people we chose  
bicker over that word, because  
maybe it is just slaughter, rape and killing

why don't we stand up now  
with our passions and convictions  
to scream and scream and scream—  
so we shall be heard  
to stop the madness  
stop the madness  
stop

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRAYER by Richard Stone

Driving home I hit a squirrel. Squirrel runs onto highway across my lane, I think "What are you thinking?" Squirrel brakes at the median as cars barrel by, turns and runs back into my lane, I think, "Don't!" I try evasive action but hear the thud, and in the mirror see a small dead lump in the road.

I wonder—if I had not tried to stop, had I just kept going, might he have lived? I think, "That's what 60 mph in a car does. Why do we live this way?" I think, "In another time and place, I might have shot him for dinner."

May the fruits of our actions justify the destruction we leave in our wake.

## Thursday, September 2

Ballet Folklorico de Oro will perform at Arte Americas which is located at 1630 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno. For more information call 266-2623 or visit their website at [www.arteamericas.org](http://www.arteamericas.org)

## Thursday, September 2 • 7 PM

The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee Invites You to Their Labor Day Holiday Dinner for Victory in November. Featured speaker: Carole Migden. Smuggler's Inn, 3737 N Blackstone in Fresno. For more information call the Democratic Party Office at (559) 486-5422, M-F, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Friday, September 3 • 6:30-8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center will show the award winning movie, "Le Chambon," about a French village during World War II, that was occupied by the Germans. A Protestant minister, Andre Trocme, spearheaded a daring project of giving shelter and sanctuary to thousands of Jewish children from different parts of Europe. From the pulpit, he proclaimed the ethic of nonviolence and the need to help strangers in the spirit of Jesus Christ. All the members of his church who were involved risked the safety and welfare of their own families.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at [dfriesen@telis.org](mailto:dfriesen@telis.org)

## Saturday, September 4 • 10 AM

The Squaw Valley Herb Gardens will present 'Herbs for People and their Pets', an introduction to wholistic care. \$10. per person. Program repeats Sunday, September 5 at 2 pm  
Advance Reservations ~ Rosemary (800) 579-8043 [www.SquawValleyHerbGardens.com](http://www.SquawValleyHerbGardens.com)

## Sunday, September 5 • 11 AM - 4 PM

Labor Day Picnic. The Central Labor Council picnic will be held at the CSUF Campus - Satellite Student Union.

## Monday, September 6

Labor Day. See articles on page 7

## Wednesday, September 8 • 7:30 PM

"Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism," a documentary (77 minutes) depicting Fox News and its promotion of the Bush/Cheney agenda, will be shown at the Fresno Center For Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. Discussion will follow. The event is free, and the public is invited. For information, call Janet at 226-1960 or Gerry at 227-2133.

## Thursday, September 9 • 7 - 8:30 PM

September 11 Memorial. Recognize and honor lives lost on and since September 11, 2001 — American, Afghani, Iraqi & more. THIS IS AN INTERFAITH GATHERING AND ENCOURAGES CREATIVE AND NONVIOLENT METHODS FOR DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. Peace Garden, Fresno State

- Poetry
- Speakers
- Candle Light Vigil

Sponsored by several university and community organizations. For more information call Chris 917-7788

## Friday, September 10 • 5PM and 8PM

Fresno Filmworks presents Gabriele Salvatores' *I'm Not Scared* at the Tower Theatre. This new film from the director of *Mediterraneo* is an engrossing suspense thriller set in a remote southern Italian village, where a young boy learns shocking secrets about the adult world. Subtitled; rated R. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to [www.fresnofilmworks.org](http://www.fresnofilmworks.org)

## Sunday, September 12 • 3 PM

A public forum with Fresno County Supervisor candidates Sal Quintero and Henry Perea on the issues of air quality, public transportation, neighborhood repair & maintenance, pedestrian safety, and the FCTA (Fresno County Transportation Authority) structure. The location is the St. Anthony Mary Claret Church (2494 S. Chestnut Ave., between Church & Jensen) Parish Hall.

## September 15 - 19

REEL Pride 2004, Fresno's 15th International Gay and Lesbian Film festival at the Tower Theater in Fresno. For more information call 443-0600 or email [reelpride@aol.com](mailto:reelpride@aol.com) Their web site is [www.reelpride.com](http://www.reelpride.com)

## Thursday, September 16 • 6:30 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (Southeast corner of Van Ness and McKinley parking in back of building).

## Saturday, September 18 • 9 - 5 PM

Create your life, your relationships and your world in harmony with your values! A trainer from the Bay Area Center for Nonviolent Communication will be giving a workshop based on Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Sponsored by the UU Church of Fresno, Peace Fresno, The

Center for Nonviolence, Women's International Peace and Freedom, Beyond War, Death Penalty Focus, and The Dances for Universal Peace. For more information call Ivy Darden at 221-1792.

## Saturday, September 18 • 11 AM - 8 PM

The NAACP Madera Branch #1084 is having a "Gospel Fest" at Lyons Town & County Park (Howard & Schnoor) in Madera, California. For information about talent performance signups, booth availability and raffle drawings, call 559-674-7324. The chairperson for this event is Linda Lewis (559-674-0787).

## Saturday and Sunday - September 18 & 19 • Music 3:30 PM and Show at 4 PM

The San Francisco Mime Troupe at Roeding Park in Fresno. For more information go to: <http://www.sfmt.org/> and see the article on page 3.

## Sunday, September 19 • 3 - 7 PM

Fresno Filmworks is hosting a benefit for Jeff Booth, owner of The Movies, on September 19 at the Full Circle Brewery on F Street near Ventura. BBQ is included and there's a no host bar for brewery beer and wine. Tickets are \$20 individual, \$30 for couples, and children under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Checks should be made out to Fresno Filmworks/Booth Benefit. Tickets are also available at The Movies and the Tower Theatre.

Jeff Booth, as most know, has promoted community events and been a stalwart supporter of peace and social justice for years. The Movies has the best collection of rare and fine movies available in the Valley. He is an indispensable institution, temporarily waylaid by surgery necessitated by diabetes. He has soaring and uncovered medical bills. He and his wife, Jane, have helped our community for years. It's time for us to help them. Show the Booth family how they are loved and appreciated by showing up for the party. If you can't make it, but would like to contribute, send your checks made out to Fresno Filmworks/Booth Benefit, to Fresno Filmworks, PO Box 4555, Fresno 93744.

## Monday, September 20 • 7 PM

Organizational Meeting and Introduction to "Pairs Project." A way to encourage individuals to meet another person who belongs to another group - religion, political, vocational - to get to know each other and share their experiences For info: Richard at 266-2559

## Tuesday, September 21 • 7:30 PM

Peace Fresno Election Announcement: Membership will vote on all Peace Fresno Board Positions: President, Vice-President (for Membership), Vice-President (for Publicity), Treasurer, Secretary, 4 Board Members at Large. Nominations will be accepted until the night of the election, up to 7 PM. This meeting will take place at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 North Van Ness at McKinley. For more information, go to: [www.peacefresno.org](http://www.peacefresno.org)

## Wednesday, September 22 • Music 3:30 PM and Show at 4 PM

The San Francisco Mime Troupe at Applegate Park in Merced (Scout Hut near M street). For more information go to: <http://www.sfmt.org/> and see the article on page 3.

## Wednesday, September 22 • 7-9 PM

"First Great Oxford/Merced Debate" - The United States should have a national health-care program for all who live in the U.S. Two panels will state their views. To be held at the Sam Pipes Room, Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St., Merced, California. Sponsored by the Just Health Care Committee of the Labor Party of Merced and others tba. More info: (209) 631-6461

## Friday, September 24 • 7:30 PM

Nights in the Plaza at Arte Americas - Bracero Festival with the Musical Group Alma. Arte Americas is located at 1630 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno. For more information call 266-2623 or visit their website at [www.arteamericas.org](http://www.arteamericas.org)

## Friday, September 24 • 8 AM - 6 PM

The New California Media EXPO 2004 will, for the first time, give ethnic media an opportunity to solidify a Valley-wide network, showcase examples of successful marketing models and build relationships with strategic marketing professionals in one of the most diverse and under-recognized regions of California. For more information, go to: [www.ncmonline.com](http://www.ncmonline.com)

## Tuesday, September 28 • 7 PM

Learn about co-housing. Come to the free presentation at Unitarian Universalist Church at 4144 N. Millbrook, just south of Ashlan. Childcare will be provided. Contact Larry Bassman at 244-0562, or by email at [lbassman@pacbell.net](mailto:lbassman@pacbell.net) for more information. Also, see the article on page 18.

## Thursday, September 30 • 5 - 8 PM

Central California Legal Services invites you to join them as they recognize individuals who make a significant contribution to ensure full and equal access to justice in our community. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> annual awards reception. Music by Maurizio Russo. Tickets \$25. For more information call Luisa Medina at 559 570-1242 or email [luisa@centralcallegal.org](mailto:luisa@centralcallegal.org)

---

**For up-to-the-minute information about what is happening in Fresno's progressive community, join the Community Alliance email alert network. We send out an updated calendar of events once a week and alert you when there is an emergency rally or demonstration. This is a free service. You can join by sending your email address to: <AllianceEditor@comcast.net> and say you would like to subscribe to this service.**



# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Vickie M. Fouts, Newsletter Editor, contact at 559.658.8260 or email at [socialjustice@sti.net](mailto:socialjustice@sti.net)

## WILPF DATES:

**Wednesday, September 1, Noon: Women in Black**, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway

**Thursday, September 2, 7 PM: NEW WILPF General Membership Meeting**, 1584 N Van Ness Ave. (see below)

**Monday, September 13, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting**, 1584 N Van Ness Ave. All members are invited to attend.

**Saturday, September 18, 9:30 AM-5 PM: Compassionate Communication Workshop**. (see below)

**Wednesday, September 22, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir It Up**.

**WILPF Meetings:** At our yearly retreat on August 14, we decided to try having two WILPF meetings per month. We will have our regular business meeting on the second Monday of the month as before. We will be adding a general membership meeting on the first Thursday of the month (see above). This meeting will be an open forum for all of us to speak about what is on our minds. There will be no formal agenda. It will be a time of sharing, a time of venting (nonviolently, of course) and a time of sisterhood. All members are invited to attend. We will have a trial period for a couple of months and see how the response is. The meeting format is open to evolution and may contain programs at times or whatever the group wants or needs. We hope to engage members who are not into attending *dry* business meetings and to give members more of a voice in the community. We hope many of you will come join us. Several branches in California follow this type of format of two separate meetings. Let us hope it will make us a stronger organization.

**Annual Retreat Report:** Fifteen members attended our annual retreat on August 14. Also attending were one prospective member and one future intern, Rick Petinak. **Thanks** to Ingrid Carmean for opening her home to us. **Thanks** to Marilyn Shelton for facilitating the by-laws revision and policy and procedures portion of the meeting. **Thanks** to all who attended. The work on the by-laws revisions is about done and at the next business meeting we should be able to finalize the revisions. The policy and procedure part will take a few meetings of the committee before they are ready to present to the membership, but the work is coming along nicely. Ruth Obel-Jorgensen gave a report on suggestions she and Catherine have, as our first interns, to make WILPF the best it can be. Their recommendations will be looked into by the policy and procedures committee. A budget subcommittee will be setting up a budget and will work with priorities set by the board of where to put our time and money this coming year. Vibe meter said that the possibility of a future military draft and work on helping future conscientious objectors obtain documentation, peace education in local schools, and working to diversify WILPF and our work were hot buttons.

**Board Openings:** We still have openings for vice president, literature, fundraising, and publicity chairs. **Please** think about volunteering. We can't run an effective organization without a full board.

**WILPFers Walk Away with Awards:** You know how some movies get multiple Academy Awards; well that is what WILPFers did at the annual Fresno Center for Nonviolence Way of Peace Awards. WILPFers Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, Catherine

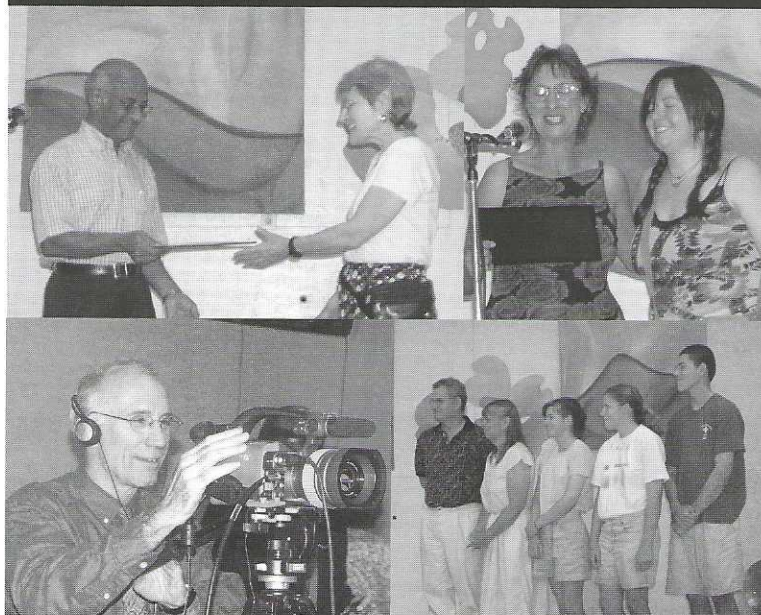
Garoupa, Camille Russell, and Vickie Fouts were awarded Way of Peace Awards with WILPFers Marilyn Shelton and Vickie Fouts as presenters. (See details of awards on the Fresno Center for Nonviolence page in this issue.) So far, more than 20 WILPFers have received this honor. That says a lot about Fresno WILPF.

**Compassionate Communications:** WILPF has signed on as a co-sponsor of the Compassionate Communications Workshop that is being put on by the Unitarian Universalist Church. The workshop will take place on September 18, 9:30 AM-5 PM. The cost is \$40 if you pre-register, or \$50 at the door. It is based upon the work of Marshall Rosenberg and his books such as, *Nonviolent Communications: A Language of Compassion*. Reading that book has totally changed my life. I highly recommend our members attend the workshop. One of my sayings lately is, "I can't ask George W to be peaceful if I don't ask it of myself and my own peace community." This workshop is a **MUST** for all in the progressive peace community. To register, contact me or Ivy Darden at 221-1792.

**Peace Garden Addams Monument:** WILPFers have donated **\$1175** toward the Jane Addams Monument in the CSUF Peace Garden so far. **Thanks** to all who have contributed. We are looking forward to doing a special presentation of the funds soon. Stay tuned for details.

**EYE on Congress:** EYE on Congress is an active, continuing project of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The goal is to educate voters and politicians on peace issues and the war economy and their connection to social spending by keeping ourselves and our neighbors informed on key issues and making our views known to elected officials and to the public at large. WILPF members eager to participate in EYE on Congress are welcome to join. You will receive materials and issue alerts by e-mail, about two to four times a month. Contact the DC office at [wilpfdc@wilpf.org](mailto:wilpfdc@wilpf.org) or Val Mullen at [vmullen@together.net](mailto:vmullen@together.net) for more information or to sign up.

**Way of Peace Award Winners. Clockwise from upper left: Fresno Center for Nonviolence board member Dan Yaseen presents award to Camille Russell, Vickie Fouts and Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, The Winger Family, and Jim Grant.**



*This page is paid for by WILPF, who has complete editorial control of the content.*



**WAY OF PEACE:** "This is the way of peace: overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love." Peace Pilgrim

The Center gave its annual Way of Peace Awards in July to the following recipients:

**VICKIE FOUTS**—"We honor you for your passion for peace & justice, for your patience in working with numerous peace & social justice groups in bridging the gap between the haves and have-nots, between the young and the old, and between the racially privileged and those who lack the privilege of white skin."

**JIM GRANT:** "We thank you for your diplomacy and courageous advocacy for world peace, and for reconciliation of all peoples throughout the Central Valley. Fresno has never had a representative of the media work so proactively to promote peace and justice as you have done, and it is a blessing to us all."

**CAMILLE RUSSELL:** "We honor your courage and wisdom as a pioneer in the establishment of Peace Fresno. As the first president of Peace Fresno you went above and beyond the call of activism, working for peace and social justice not only in Fresno, but in the world as a whole."

**THE WINGER FAMILY, CLIFF & SARAH, ARIANA, JAYMES, & SHAINA:** "You are a true all-American family, making peace from Washington, DC, to Fresno, California. How fortunate we are who know the Winger family, and how fortunate Fresno is to have this family in its presence."

Youth recipients, **CATHERINE GAROUPA & RUTH OBEL-JORGENSEN:** "For your invaluable contributions as interns for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and the

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, for the numerous programs you have arranged for the community, for your support of the CSUF Middle East Forums, we honor both of you."

Youth recipients, **KHARA MATCHAM & SHAWN PUTNAM:** "In recognition of your relentless passion, determination, and devotion to peace, social justice, and non-violence through continuous social action, educational outreach, and community engagement, we honor you."

**BOOKS & TAPES, TAPES & BOOKS:** Our annual books & tapes sale will be held on Oct. 3, but this year we have on-site storage that allows us to accept donations immediately. If you have books, CDs, videos, or DVDs that you can part with in support of the Center, you can bring them by any time during our open hours, Monday-Friday, 11 AM-3 PM.

**GANDHI SPEAKS** (via Diane Marks): "Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him . . . ? Then you will find your doubts and . . . self melting away." Pyarelal, Last Phase.

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence**  
1584 N Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93718  
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • [fenv@sbeglobal.net](mailto:fenv@sbeglobal.net)  
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>

## THE WELCH REPORT

August 16, 2004 • Jack H. Welch, M.D.

### TEN MISTAKES HISTORY WILL RECORD ABOUT WAR IN IRAQ

The following is taken from a speech presented to the Board and staff of the Center for Defense Information on May 12, 2004 by Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.), former director of US Central Command.

The first mistake that will be recorded in history about the Iraq War is **THE BELIEF THAT CONTAINMENT AS A POLICY DOESN'T WORK.** It worked against the Soviet Union, has worked with North Korea and other countries. Containment is a lot cheaper than the alternative, fighting a war!

The second mistake history will record is that **THE STRATEGY WAS FLAWED.** One heard the road to Jerusalem led through Baghdad, when in fact the road to Baghdad led through Jerusalem: the Middle East peace process needed solving first. The idea that we would walk into Iraq and be met with open arms was way off the mark.

The third mistake was one we repeated from Vietnam: **WE HAD TO CREATE A FALSE RATIONALE FOR GOING IN TO GET PUBLIC SUPPORT.** The intelligence was not there. In testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee one month before the war, Gen. Zinni was asked by Sen. Lugar, "Do you feel the threat from Saddam Hussein is imminent?" He replied, "No, not at all...not even close".

**WE FAILED TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE EFFORT.** President Bush 41 set a standard that held up well until the Iraq War; he went to the UN before we undertook the operation to expel Saddam from Kuwait. A tremendous diplomatic effort then created a remarkable coalition including Arab, Islamic, European and other countries from around the world. Why would we believe that we would not get a UN resolution this time?

The fifth mistake was that **WE UNDERESTIMATED THE TASK.** We had been told that we were about to go into a problem whose dimensions and depth you don't know, and which will cause us a great deal of pain, time, expenditure of resources and casualties down the road.



The sixth mistake, and perhaps the biggest one, was **PROPPING UP AND TRUSTING THE EXILES,** the Gucci Guerrillas of London. We bought into their intelligence reports, and so ended up with a group that fed us bad information.

The seventh problem has been **THE LACK OF PLANNING FOR THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION,** and the development of building of infrastructure for Iraq.

The eighth problem was **THE INSUFFICIENCY OF MILITARY FORCES ON THE GROUND.** Extra divisions in Gen. Zinni's plan were there to freeze the security situation because it was expected that chaos would result once Saddam's authoritarian regime was uprooted.

The ninth problem has been **THE AD HOC ORGANIZATION WE THREW INTO POST-WAR IRAQ.** The Coalition Provisional Authority had no planning apparently for its structure.

The tenth mistake has been a series of **BAD DECISIONS ON THE GROUND.** De-Baathifying down to a point where you've alienated the Sunnis, and disbanding the Iraqi Army are examples of such decisions; also lack of a dialogue or identifying Sunni and Shia leadership.

In the writer's opinion this war against Iraq was wrong, legally and morally, in that Iraq represented no imminent threat to the US or our allies. We do not support preemptive war; war is the last resort, not a first or early one in a conflict.

Gen. Zinni would do several things now. The most important thing needed is the UN resolution which will encourage our allies joining us and provide the legitimacy we need. He would then go to the countries in the region asking their help with respect to the enhancing of regional security, the finding of investors, discussion of the kind of government Iraq will have, and a system of education for the electorate. Importantly, also, we have to stop the tough talk rhetoric!

(Source: The Defense Monitor May/June 2004)

# COHOUSING COMES TO FRESNO

by Larry Bassman

On Tuesday, September 28, at 7 PM, architect and cohousing pioneer Kathryn McCamant will give a free presentation at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno. The event is being sponsored by the UUCF's Adult Religious Education Committee and is open to everyone. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the cohousing concept to the Fresno community, and to determine if there is enough interest to justify proceeding toward establishing a cohousing community here.

So what precisely is cohousing? It is a type of collaborative housing that attempts to overcome the alienation of modern subdivisions where there is no sense of community. It is characterized by private dwellings with their own kitchens, but also extensive common facilities. The common house may include a large dining room, kitchen, meeting rooms, recreation facilities, library, workshops, and children's space. Communities are intentional neighborhoods of people consciously committed to living as a community. The typical cohousing community has 20 to 30 single family homes along a pedestrian street or clustered around a courtyard. Residents often have several optional group meals in the common building each week. One of the main characteristics of cohousing is the emphasis on the participatory process. Residents take part in the planning and design of the community so that it directly responds to their needs. There are leadership roles, but if your community has a leader that sets policy or establishes standards unilaterally, it is not cohousing. The community is not a primary income source for residents as there is no shared economy. If the community provides residents with their primary income, this is a significant change to the dynamic between neighbors and defines another level of community beyond the scope of cohousing.

Every cohousing community does have a common kitchen, and community meals are usually prepared and served two or three times each week. Eating common meals is always voluntary, and in some communities cooking is also voluntary. Typically each adult is involved in meal preparation and/or cleanup once every four or five weeks. Many feel that common meals are the glue that holds cohousing communities together, and these may be the only times in a busy week when residents get to have real conversations with their neighbors. Cohousing communities are often described as "intentional neighborhoods," rather than "intentional communities," because the term "intentional community" frequently connotes a shared religious, political, or social ideology rather than simply the desire to have a sense of community with their neighbors. In many other kinds of shared living situations, individuals don't have a lot of space where they can do whatever they want because most rooms are shared. In those situations, residents probably can't paint walls their favorite colors or have a late-night party without imposing on others who share their space.

The selection process also varies. Groups normally require attendance at regular meetings and some involvement with a committee before applying for membership. Membership usually requires an equity investment, which is eventually credited toward the price of your house. Advantages to joining early in the process are that the earlier you come into the group, the more opportunity you have to be a part of the design and planning, and there is financial incentive in the form of a discount applied to your final price. Most communities are structured as condominiums or planned unit developments. In "retrofit" cohousing, existing buildings are renovated so that certain spaces can be used by the whole community. Usually any household leaving the community can sell to anyone they choose, but some communities maintain a "right of first refusal," meaning that sellers must offer their unit for purchase by the community first. In other communities, residents agree not to lease or sell their unit to anyone not wishing to participate fully in the community. In some cohousing communities, a few house-

holds own homes with attached apartments available for rent, and homeowners may rent their unit for a period during which they are unable to occupy it. A few communities have one or more units shared by two or more individuals or households.

Cohousing communities in North America range in size from 9 to 44 households. Residents in smaller communities can be sure they will know every person quite well if they choose to, but a larger community usually has resources to support more extensive common facilities and a greater variety of activities. Cohousing attracts a wide range of household types: single people of all ages, couples and single parents of infants, toddlers and school-aged children, couples whose children are grown, young couples without children.

Much of the expense in creating a cohousing community comes from the costs of new construction, and having extensive common facilities considering their size relative to conventional housing complexes. There is also a tendency to plan too much customization of the private homes, raising the costs for everyone. In addition, using environmentally sound or "green" materials and techniques can increase costs. In some areas, multifamily housing projects must have a certain percentage of units meet standards for "affordability." People in cohousing often wish they could make even more than the required percentage affordable, but unfortunately, there is generally a limit to how many affordable units can be built.

Because residents all know each other, there is an excellent neighborhood watch system built in to the communities. If a child falls off a swing when out of your immediate sight, another adult will surely pick the child up, and there are many people available to watch the property of an absent resident. Many feel comfortable leaving their doors unlocked when going to the common house, and will not require that their community be accessible only through a locked gate.

There are many more advantages to this type of community living. If you are interested in exploring the cohousing concept, come to the free presentation at Unitarian Universalist Church at 4144 N. Millbrook, just south of Ashlan, on Tuesday, September 28, at 7 PM. Childcare will be provided. Contact Larry Bassman at 244-0562 or lbassman@pacbell.net for more information.

Sources:  
[www.cohousingco.com](http://www.cohousingco.com)  
[www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org)

---

## *Free Speech Watch continued from page 6*

"Unity doesn't mean giving up your First Amendment rights. And it doesn't mean we all need to act like robots," he says. "I'm disappointed at my party and my candidate who I'm working for. And I'm a little frightened about the ramifications that go with this. If this happens on the floor of a Democratic Party convention, and no one is riled, and it is permitted by the highest authorities of the party, and none of the media pay attention, then it has certain portents for the future of free speech."

---

I tried to get comment from the DNC. One press spokesperson told me on background that they had to check "anything that was being brought in and out for security reasons."

Lina Garcia, press secretary for the convention said, by e-mail, "Please call the Boston Police Department for comment," even though I asked specifically about the actions of DNC personnel.

Beverly Ford is director of communications for the Boston Police Department.

"We didn't do the inside security," she says. "We did outside security. It wasn't us."

# Youth Leaders CATAPULT for Social Change

By Ruth Obel-Jorgensen

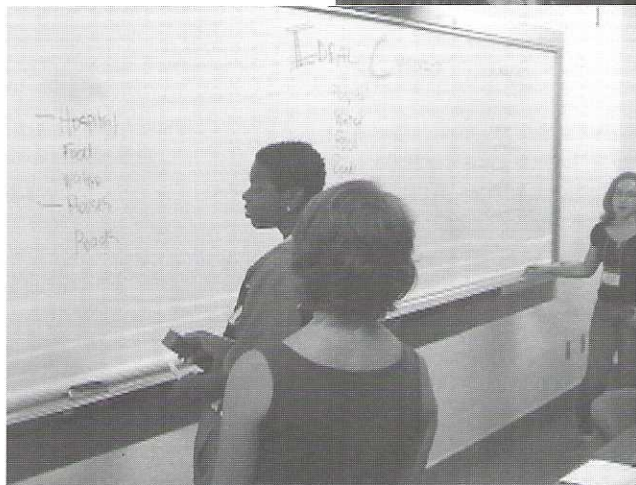
As an American Humanics alumnus, social work graduate student, a past intern with the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, and the co-facilitator for the only social justice organization at Fresno State, Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition, I was more than enthusiastic when I was offered the opportunity to participate as a facilitator for the CATAPULT program.

The CATAPULT youth leadership program is run by the Modesto-based Great Valley Center ([www.greatvalley.org](http://www.greatvalley.org)) and its partner, the California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development ([www.californiacenter.org](http://www.californiacenter.org)). Major support for the program is provided by the James Irvine Foundation. This year the CATAPULT program was also sponsored by the CSU Fresno American Humanics Nonprofit Leadership and Management program ([www.humanics.org](http://www.humanics.org)).

The CATAPULT program aims to support and encourage high school students through community action, teamwork, aspiration, policy understanding, and leadership training. Thirty-six students from 18 Central Valley counties were nominated to participate in this program, which demonstrates how becoming a great leader can create amazing changes in their communities. In addition, for their hard work and as an inspiration for college, each student will be awarded a \$1500 stipend.

The ten-month youth leadership program began with the August retreat, which was held at CSU Fresno. As mentioned above, I participated in this amazing four-day retreat as a facilitator. The purpose of the retreat was to familiarize the students with their teammates, assess the concerns of the Central Valley and to engage them in the process of policy. It was a time for the students to get their feet wet before diving into the pool of social change.

As a facilitator, I had the opportunity to share with the youth my experiences as a community organizer and a grassroots activist as well as my inspiration for policy change. It was great to hear that a couple of the students actively supported a teachers' hunger strike that resulted in the governor's reversal of an original pay cut. I spent time learning the stories of the many youth who spent time in and out of our preposterous juvenile system, yet still striving and pursuing a life outside the stigmatism and hypocrisy. I knew this group of youth defi-



nately had the potential to make waves in their communities and revolutionize the system by using their personal experiences and struggles to empower them.

The CATAPULT program provided 36 students—the majority of whom have led lives more difficult than the average youth—the opportunity to express their desires for change and transform the negatives they see in daily life through community action and policy change. Being a part of the retreat I had the opportunity to see the changes in every student from the first day to the last. Whether it was defining their future goals or leading an

interview with a state representative, each student displayed amazing growth and potential.

In June, following the youth and community assessments, community projects, local policy advocacy, and statewide policy hearings, the students will graduate from CATAPULT. It will be a day I won't miss. They'll be one step closer to college and a giant leap into their future.

Programs such as CATAPULT empower youth to think outside of the box, discover their passion, develop their own ideas, and provide the skills and the opportunities to manifest their lives and the lives of those within their communities. Programs such as these do not overlook students who may not be the elite of their class or school, rather they invest in youth who share a backyard with and are affected by the diverse weaknesses in every community throughout the Central Valley.

The importance in sharing my experience with CATAPULT is to inspire teachers, advisors, parents, employers, and politician—all adults—to trust in the power of youth, their ideas, and their actions. I hope to provide an example of the ultimate potential of all people to change our communities, weed out the repression, and create a society that benefits all. The youth of our Valley are out there making change: We need to support them, and we need be an example for them.



Throughout the retreat students were a part of four task forces; drugs and gangs, jobs and economy, air quality, and education. Students were scheduled to interview representatives in a variety of community organizations, and in federal, state, county, and city governments. They had the opportunity to obtain research from policy experts in each of their task force areas, which was used to make a presentation on their issue and of their recommendations for community and policy changes.

# **MANUEL TOLEDO:**

## **Community organizer with FACT (Fresno Area Communities Together) and LUPE (La Union del Pueblo Entero)**

By Richard Stone

*This is the first in a series of interviews with individuals making a difference in our community alliance by working with newly emerging constituencies.*

Having misconnected on our first attempt to meet, Manuel and I converse a bit tentatively at his Kern Street office downtown. We are soon on beam, and his bright-eyed energy comes through warmly. This will be fun.

Manuel recalls that he has always been an "organizer," if only of his friends to "be doing something rather than nothing." He progressed to being someone who'd try to make situations better, at home or in the neighborhood. But then, in 1994, came Pete Wilson's Proposition 187, the anti-immigrant measure seeking to restrict essential services to undocumented residents. At that point, reacting to this direct attack on people he lived among, his organizing took a serious political turn in the direction he still follows.

For Manuel, community organizing means building a broad-based organization to "change things for the better by altering the relations of power." This, in turn, requires "taking a seat at the table" where decisions affecting the lives of community members are made. This work is especially focused on immediate needs like employment, schools, housing, and air quality. A big piece of the action is educating people to see how decisions on these issues are made—typically by governmental groups—and to understand that change requires participation in these political arenas.

Manuel's work with FACT has been fostered by PICO, a national organization for community organizing; and following their methodology, he began his work in Fresno in a few lower-income areas—the west side, southeast Fresno, and the Tower and Fresno High areas. Issues generated from this base of operations comprise what Manuel calls "the basic necessities platform":

\*electing school board members by district (instead of at large) to get better neighborhood representation;

\*making sure the school board keeps its pledge to build a middle school on the west side;

\*creating truly affordable housing for residents of the focus areas (not just going by federal definitions, which include houses well out of reach for even lower-middle-class families, much less the working poor);

\*creating viable park space (in Fresno we have 2 acres of park land for every 1000 residents, compared with Sacramento, which has 10 acres per 1000 residents).

Recently, seeing that issues such as transportation, employment, and air quality are as much regional as local concerns, Manuel has begun working with LUPE, a national organization that organizes regionally to affect decision-making at that higher level. "The work is the same," he says, "only with different players."

Regarding the November election as a window of opportunity, when people are more attuned than usual to electoral politics, FACT/LUPE has responded by developing a strategy they hope will be especially effective in areas with traditionally low voter turnout. The goal is to identify 100 people in each focus district who commit to generating 20 votes for candidates endorsing "the basic necessities platform." This effort is right in line with the efforts of the new progressive PAC (which tries to recruit such candidates), and whose lead organizer, Mike

Rhodes, Manuel identifies as a major ally, along with Kevin Hall (of the Sierra Club), Mary Savala (of the League of Women Voters), and Ed Eames (of the local Americans with Disabilities Act advisory board.)

Manuel speaks of two major hindrances in his work. One is external—the resistance to change and power-sharing by those now in charge. The other is internal—the tendency to fall into routine in the organizing. "Of course," he adds, "lack of money and institutional infrastructure are limits, but the most serious obstacles are in the way we think and do our business." His answer is ongoing reflection and evaluation—he advocates that we try to free ourselves as well as our apparent adversaries from the preconceptions and patterns that effectually enslave us.

Although change is slow and success elusive, Manuel says he is strengthened by the commitment and determination of the people he works with, and by seeing the possibilities for change in himself. Asked how readers of the *Community Alliance* can help his work, he says simply, "Show support for our actions," to which I add: "Affirm their activities in whatever ways work for you, with words, time, money, whatever. Thus we build our base."

CONTACT INFORMATION: LUPE at 2114 Kern St., Fresno 93721; (559) 497-5450; mtoledo@lupemail.com.

### **IDENTITY BOX:**

Birthplace: Lemoore (grew up in Corcoran and Hanford)

Heritage: Mexican/Chicano

Religious affiliation: Catholic

Political affiliation: declines to state

Parts of Fresno most frequented: west side, southeast, downtown, Tower

Inspirations: FACT community leaders; Malcom X; Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse; Emiliano Zapata

Nonpolitical interests: reading, poetry (especially that written by acquaintances and locals)

Unexpected interest/guilty pleasure: video games

## **Florida We Are Not**

By Catherine Campbell

Dorsey Nunn was released from prison in 1981 and immediately returned to college. He has not been in trouble since and has instead dedicated his life to helping people in prison. With Yvonne Cooks of Oakland, Dorsey recently founded All of Us or None, an advocacy group dedicated to restoring the civil rights of people who have done time. The idea is to give ex-convicts a stake in society and reduce the chance they will return to crime.

Dorsey and Yvonne are looking for volunteers in the Central Valley who will do voter registration in our local jails from Bakersfield to Modesto. Felons who are in prison or on parole are ineligible to vote, but people in jail awaiting trial, or people in jail serving time for felonies, are eligible to vote. They have no opportunity, however, because they are behind bars and local voter registration drives do not reach them.

Volunteers would need to become eligible to register voters, and then would contact local sheriffs to gain access to the jails to register inmates to vote. This election is particularly significant to persons in jails because of the initiative proposing a significant change in the Three Strikes Law—a change that would eliminate the possibility that persons charged with minor, nonviolent offenses could be sent to prison for 25 years to life because of a prior criminal history. I will assist in handling any resistance to an attempt to register qualified voters in local jails.

Persons interested in this project should call Dorsey Nunn at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children at (415) 255-7036, ext. 312.

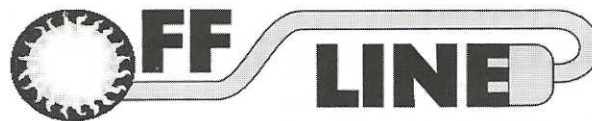
# DANIEL BLODGETT MD

Holistic and Family Medicine

Offices in Oakhurst and Fresno  
(559) 683-6600 (Oakhurst)

*Specializing in non-drug treatment of chronic conditions by whole food supplements.*

**30% cash discount.**



**Offline Independent Energy Systems**  
PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN, INSTALLATION & SALES  
*21 years of inspired service*

Don Lowebug  
Cynthia Lowebug  
ofln@aol.com  
559 877-7080

Box 231  
North Fork, CA 93643  
<http://www.psnw.com/~ofln>  
License #661052

## **ai** A-One Brokers

Professional Real Estate Services

4905 N. West Ave., Ste. 101  
Fresno, CA 93705

Office (559) 243-1200  
Cell (559) 904-5554  
Fax (559) 243-4518  
email realtorjwe@aol.com

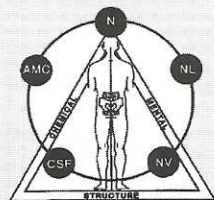
**Jeffrey W. Eisinger**  
Realtor

### **Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D**

**Psychologist Lic. #13852**  
**Marriage and Family Therapist Lic. #23370**

**Feminist Therapy**  
**Sexual Orientation Issues**

1130 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 105 • Fresno, CA 93710  
Ph. (559) 227-1977 • Fax (559) 227-2698



Member ICAK-USA

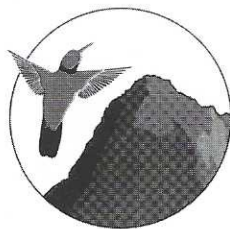
Phone/Fax (559) 248-9527

E-mail: lbassman@pacbell.net

### **Larry F. Bassman, D.C.**

- ◆ Natural Health Care
- ◆ Applied Kinesiology
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Chiropractic

4905 N. West Avenue, Suite 108  
Fresno, California 93705



**Sue Stone MD**

**Holistic & Integrative**  
**Family Medicine**

559.435.1650  
Fax: 559.435.1471  
docsue@docsue.com

7415 N. Cedar Ave. Suite #101 • Fresno, CA 93720

## **INCARNATION**

### **COMING TO LIFE IN MIND AND BODY**

Richard Stone's latest book is now available  
for

**\$10.90**

Call 266-2559 to arrange delivery

Chanah Cossman, CNM  
Nurse-Midwife  
Prenatal and Newborn Care

Enfermera Partera  
Cuidado Prenatal y de Bebé



CHINATOWN

Family  
Medicine  
and

Midwifery  
Medical Office

Hospital & Home Birth Services

829 F Street  
Fresno, CA 93706

Tel (559) 266-0444  
Fax (559) 266-7745

PATIENCE  
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844

North Van Ness

Fresno, California

93728

559/442-3111

pm097@csufresno.edu



## **QUAKERS**

### **FRESNO FRIENDS MEETING**

**Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM**

## **ALL WELCOME**

**2219 San Joaquin, Fresno • 237-4102**

# Hundreds March for Legalization and an End to Intimidation

By Mike Rhodes

The United Farm Workers union held a march in Fresno on August 1, 2004. More than 400 union members and their allies protested the intimidation of farm workers through immigration raids and called for support of the AgJobs bill, which will allow undocumented field laborers to earn permanent legal status. The march, the first held by the UFW in Fresno for many years, is an indication of the union's interest in having a greater presence in this area.

The union has opened an office in Reedley, brought staff and resources into the area, and is becoming a more influential force in the local political scene. The UFW already has Radio Campesino, which broadcasts information and music in Fresno and the Central Valley to the farm worker community. They are gearing up a community organizing project (LUPE), which is organizing poor and working people to improve conditions in the rural areas where unemployment is more than 50% and poverty is endemic.

UFW president Arturo S. Rodriguez joined the marchers in Fresno to protest recent immigration raids in the Central Valley. The three- to four-mile march in southeast Fresno went through heavily Latino neighborhoods and passed by a flea market where vendors and shoppers shouted their support for "la causa." Several similar UFW-led marches and rallies have taken place in Bakersfield, Salinas, and in Ventura County. Recent raids and intimidation by U.S. immigration authorities have sown widespread fear among Latino immigrants and demonstrated the need for this landmark legislation, march organizers say. UFW offices across California have received numerous calls from farm workers and other Latinos afraid to leave their homes or take children to school. According to reports, people are often being questioned and arrested because of their skin color.

Joining Arturo Rodriguez and the UFW in the Fresno march were delegations from many local groups. The Service Employees International Union local 250, Peace Fresno, No Nos Vamos, and Planned Parenthood carried banners and brought their members out in support of the march.

For more information about Ag-Jobs S.1645 or the United Farm Workers union, go to: <[www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org)>.



*These Mexican dancers led the march.*



*The U.S. flag, the Virgin of Guadalupe, and the Mexican flag were side by side*



*The United Farm Workers march for justice.*



*Peace Fresno participated in the march.*

# KFCF 88.1 FM: Volunteer Opportunities Available

By Mike Rhodes

The Fresno Free College Foundation (FFCF) is the owner and operator of radio station KFCF 88.1 FM in Fresno. KFCF is alternative/progressive radio in Central California. They broadcast the KPFA/Pacifica signal from Berkeley much of the time, with 12 locally produced shows on the air every week—more, if you include specials.

The FFCF is also the sponsor of several projects, including the Ananda Fund and the Sleeping Bag Project. The Ananda Fund sponsors scholarships for students in India, and the Sleeping Bag Project provides sleeping bags, blankets, and other materials to the homeless in Fresno. FFCF has brought a number of important musicians and cultural performers to town, including Utah Phillips and the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

KFCF and FFCF are always looking for new volunteers. In addition, they will be holding elections later this year for members of their board of directors. If you would like to become involved, either as a volunteer or a board member, contact the FFCF at (559) 233-2221. There is also more information available at their Web site <[www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org)>.

Vic Bedoian, executive director at the FFCF, says they are looking for

- (1) A webmaster—someone who can keep the information on the Web site updated, or even help design the Web presence.
- (2) People who can do publicity, write press releases, send information about events to various media, as well as someone who can distribute flyers and program schedules to various venues around town on a regular basis.
- (3) Someone who can help with the organizing of the music library.

Vic says that "the Fresno Free College Foundation will be holding an election for three positions on our board of directors during November 2004." The procedure for elections was adopted by the FFCF Board of Directors to enhance member

participation, for the democratic governance of the Foundation. The following guidelines will be followed for nominations and election of the board of directors:

- (1) A candidate must be a qualified member of the Fresno Free College Foundation. A qualified member is defined by our bylaws as an individual over 16 years of age who is a current subscriber to KFCF Radio or the FFCF for \$25 per year or more, and has submitted a signed membership card.
- (2) The nomination period will begin on September 15, 2004, and nomination applications must be submitted to the FFCF no later than October 15.
- (3) Any FFCF member in good standing may nominate herself/himself or another member.
- (4) Slates of candidates are not permitted.
- (5) Candidates must provide a brief statement and a completed candidate questionnaire. The questionnaire form is available from the Foundation office, located at 1449 N. Wishon Avenue in Fresno. It is also available on our Web site <[www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org)> or will be mailed upon request.
- (6) The official 30-day campaign and voting period will begin on November 1, 2003. Ballots will be counted and tallied by the accountancy firm of Sharmayne Sikora, CPA.



**PeaceFresno in SunMt Chronicles**

**We join joyful anti-nuc tribal ceremony**  
<http://www.sunmt.org/aug11chron04.html>



**We farm workers mourn 13 deaths...**

**...speak, sing for the needs of us living**  
<http://www.sunmt.org/aug10chron04.html>



**We braceros step from the shadows of two nations to demand our \$1 billion**  
<http://www.sunmt.org/july27chron04.html>

Students, Teachers: 6 years of people-focused valley actions on the internet. See archives:  
<http://www.sunmt.org/archives.html>

## Rising Up Filmfest

visions of hope & inspiration second annual

Sun. Oct. 17, 2004  
 Starline Theater - 833 E Fern - Fresno

SunMt Docu-poems by George Elgie Ballis with footage used in Fahrenheit 911

### Rising Up from Shame of War

2-4 pm • tickets: \$5 • 559.855.3710

See us: dance our soulful street theater

- sow seeds of peace at Camp Harmony
- give Pinochio Bush the nose
- honor all victims of terror
- mourn our killed sons
- expose cop spy
- and more

**Teachers: send students to see extra/ordinary folks creatively, joyfully, effectively engaged in public actions for a better world.**



## Media Democracy and the Struggle for Cable Access

By Mike Rhodes

Surf through the 100 channels that Comcast Cable offers its 72,000 subscribers in the Fresno/Clovis area and you will notice that they all have one thing in common: The content of the channels on the local cable network is controlled by corporate media. All news and analysis is filtered through the lens of huge media conglomerates interested in one thing: the financial bottom line. The rapid acceleration of media consolidation has resulted in the end of independent and alternative programming on TV. That is why you can have 100 channels and not find one interesting thing to watch.

The local battlefield for media democracy is over the franchise renewal agreement between our cable provider and the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, and the City of Clovis. All of these agreements expire on December 31, 2004. At stake is public, education, and government (PEG) access, a community media center, and the I-Net. Most cable franchise agreements provide the community with PEG access channels, a community media center, and an Institutional Network. In fact, almost every major California city, except Fresno, has PEG access. Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles all have PEG access as a part of their cable franchise agreements.

### What Is PEG Access, a Community Media Center, and the I-Net?

PEG access provides a channel or multiple channels on the cable network for public, education, and government programming. The cable company provides the channels at no cost. They do this because they are given access to public space (roads, easements, etc.) to run cable throughout the community. They agree to provide PEG channels to compensate the community for the use of their space. The public channels typically provide programming produced by community groups and individuals. A program on the public channel could be about tenant rights and produced by Central California Legal Services or it could be a cultural presentation of Hmong dancers. An individual could produce a show about local politics or you could see Amy Goodman's *Democracy Now* on public-access TV. In short, locally produced, independent, and alternative video will have a home on the cable network.

The education channels will be used primarily by the schools for education and distant learning purposes. If you tune in to channel 96 you will see the beginning of the local education channel. Channel 96 is the forerunner to PEG. In an agreement reached earlier this year between Comcast and the schools and the City of Fresno, it was agreed to set up this channel. Right now, it is mostly broadcasting the Annenberg education channel. It is expected that local education and government programming will be on this channel soon.

The government channels will have the capacity to broadcast the complete City Council, Board of Supervisors, and planning commission meetings, and more. The government channels will be the community's window into what is happen-

ing in government. There will likely be permanent video cameras in government spaces, which will be turned on when public meetings are taking place. Interviews with elected officials, city-sponsored events, and more will be available on this channel.

A community media center is where much of the programming for PEG channels is produced. Funding to operate such a community media center will come from the cable company as a part of the franchise agreement. Included will be video cameras, editing equipment, studios, and training. All of this will be provided to the community at no cost.

The Institutional Network or I-Net is a part of most franchise renewal agreements. An I-Net provides a high-speed connection between government, educational, and community entities. This connection can be used for accessing the Internet, providing two-way video, and point-of-origin TV production. The I-Net can establish locations throughout the community where live TV production can take place. Some examples would be to have an I-Net site at City Hall so we can see what is going on in local government; at a school so we can see musical or theatrical productions; or at a community center where a live cultural event could be shown throughout the community.

### The Current Situation

Negotiations between the City of Fresno and Comcast are just getting under way. Other government bodies in the area (Fresno County, the City of Clovis, and Madera) are watching these negotiations and will probably come to an agreement after the Fresno City negotiations are completed. The City of Fresno has hired the Buske Group, which is a consulting firm. The Buske Group will help level the playing field between Comcast and the City of Fresno.

In the prelude to negotiations on the franchise renewal agreement, the Buske Group conducted an extensive community needs assessment study, which involved hundreds of community leaders in the process. In a series of community meetings, details about PEG access, the community media center, and I-Net were explained and excitement about the potential of the franchise agreement grew. For the past several months a task force of community, education, and government members has been meeting regularly. The group has narrowed the search for the community media center location to a couple of sites, has worked out many of the details on the I-Net, and is looking into the establishment of a nonprofit 501C3 to oversee the PEG channels.

The good news is that the process to bring media democracy and PEG access channels to Fresno is going well. The danger is that negotiations with Comcast have just begun, and it is unclear in what direction those negotiations will go. We can expect a few bumps in the road. Community activists who support media democracy must be prepared to lobby city council members or show up at a meeting when needed. In the next few months will be decided the next 10-15 years of policy that determines the level of media democracy in this area. The *Community Alliance* magazine, radio station KFCF 88.1 FM, and Indymedia < [www.indybay.org/centralvalley](http://www.indybay.org/centralvalley) > will keep you informed and alerted when your help is needed.